

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Small country living
The survival
of the
English parish
Bored out of existence?
Plans for a tidal
barge threaten
the Severn bore
Law results
Full results for the
1985 Law Society
Final Examinations
England's challengers
Report on the Romania v
Turkey clash in England's
World Cup group

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Competition prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Miss Susan Savy of Chingford, London. The prize was double the usual daily amount because no-one won on Monday. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page. On Saturday, at least £22,000 will be available to be won - the weekly prize of £20,000 and the daily £2,000.

Channel link bids sought

Cabinet ministers are studying ways of preventing trade unions gaining a stranglehold over the operation of a fixed link across the Channel.

The British and French governments published joint guidelines for holding such a link yesterday and the project is considered very likely to go ahead.

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Child victims

At least one child a week dies at the hands of parents, the NSPCC says. Socially isolated families are most at risk. Page 15

Exams threat

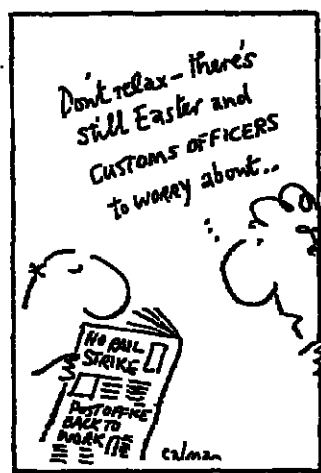
Most members of the second biggest teaching union favour taking action in support of their pay claim that would directly affect examinations. Page 2

Neves operation

Brazil's president-elect, Senator Tancred Neves, aged 75, had surgery in São Paulo for an intestinal hernia, his fourth intestinal operation in two weeks.

Sisters drown

Two twin sisters aged 20 drowned in the surf at Portlaven beach, Helston, Cornwall.



Ovett returns

Steve Ovett, the world 1,500 metres record holder, returns to competition on Monday for the first time since illness ruined his chances at the Los Angeles Olympics last year. Page 28

SPECIAL REPORT

For many GWR meant God's Wonderful Railway. Today a four-page Special Report celebrates 150 years of the Great Western. Pages 23-26

Leader, page 15

Letters: On rates, from Mr J L Ramsay, and others; child-battering, from Mrs E Hoodless and Miss J Courtis. Leading articles: MPs pay and perks; Greece Holy Week III. Features, pages 12-14. Lord Chalfont draws the veil on Russia's space weapons research; Fourth time lucky for the National Gallery?; Bangladesh dilemma; Premature babies; Ulster's educational divide. Obituary, page 16. Mr John Fernald, Prof Janet Watson. Classified, pages 30-34. La crème de la crème; property

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Customs threat to Easter travel by air and sea

● There was mixed news on the industrial front. Customs officers will work to rule over Easter causing chaos to holiday travel as part of the Civil Service's pay protest
● Post Office workers returned to work after a High Court injunction ordered an end to a strike at a London sorting office pending a ballot

● Miners' leaders voted at a special conference to lift the 17-month overtime ban and resume normal relations with the coal board
● Rail union leaders representing Aslef and the NUR have accepted a 5 per cent pay offer, below the rate of inflation. But the white collar union has rejected the offer

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Militant Civil Service union leaders have drawn up plans to disrupt sea and air travel over the peak Easter holiday period as a protest against the Government's latest pay offer. They intend to cause disruption at Heathrow and Gatwick airports and to cross-Channel ferry services from Dover. Other ports on the south coast could also be a target during one of the busiest periods for holiday traffic. Customs officers are being asked to operate a strict work to rule, which, according to one union official, would lead to "massive" queues of people at air and sea ports as they return from holiday breaks on Monday. The two unions involved are also trying to extend the action beyond the end of the holiday weekend so that roll-on, roll-off freight arriving at Channel ports on Tuesday is severely disrupted.

Leaders of the Society of Civil and Public Servants believe they have a mandate for the action in a recent national ballot which showed a narrow majority for industrial action over Government's offer, which has been raised to 4.4 per cent.

The Civil and Public Services Association, which is conducting a national ballot on a one-day strike on April 15 and subsequent selective action, is holding meetings at airports and sea ports over the next two days to assess support for the disruptive action. Union officials were confident last night that they would win that support and have taken legal advice which they say indicates that a work-to-rule protest would not be outside the provisions of the Government's employment laws and would therefore not require a secret ballot for authorization. Union officials would not elaborate on the precise actions they would be taking although it appeared they would attempt to delay Customs traffic filling in forms during busy periods, work that is normally done outside peak traffic periods. It is also thought that people going through the "green channel" when returning to the country will also be subject to more thorough and more frequent searches which would inevitably lead to long queues developing. Plans for disruption were being drawn up as early

Talks start as postal staff ballot on strike

By David Felton and Philip Webster

Post Office and postal union leaders were today taking steps to defuse the postal dispute after 2,400 staff at the country's largest sorting office were ordered back to work pending a ballot on a call for an official strike.

The return to work in the face of a High Court injunction after a strike of less than 24 hours at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in central London was agreed by the executive of the Union of Communication Workers. The executive also authorized a national strike ballot to oppose the introduction of extra part-time workers.

Last night the union and management met to discuss a letter written by Mr Ken Young, the Board member for personnel and industrial relations, which suggested that the Post Office was prepared to pull back from introducing the part-time staff into sorting offices until after the UCU annual conference next month.

The Post Office is not prepared to "freeze" recruitment of part-time staff but has offered that the extra staff would not be moved into the 66 sorting offices earmarked until the union leadership has tried to persuade the conference in Bournemouth to modify its hostility to the increase from 8,500 to 20,000 in the number of part-time staff.

The ballot due to start at Mount Pleasant tomorrow under the terms of the Trade Union Act, 1984. The UCU members will be asked to back an executive recommendation for a strike if members are suspended for refusing to use a

new sorting and coding machine.

The results of that ballot may not be known until after Easter but if there is no negotiated agreement, the office, which plays a critical role in the national postal network, could be out on strike again within a week.

It is known that the UCU executive is not enthusiastic



Mr Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the UCU.

about organizing industrial action and would prefer to seek conference backing for a new negotiating strategy on the Post Office's demands of part-timers, a mandatory productivity agreement and the use of new machinery.

The union executive also decided to go to the High Court today to have the injunction preventing industrial action discharged.

The Government indicated yesterday that it would move quickly to remove the Post Office's monopoly if the dispute continued on back page, col 1

Rail unions' pay split

Leaders of the two main rail unions have accepted a pay offer worth about 5 per cent, although the same offer has been rejected by the white collar union officials who are to meet British Rail for fresh talks next week (David Felton, Our Labour Correspondent, writes).

The National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen accepted the offer, which is below the rate of inflation, after BR dropped plans to link the offer to productivity improvements. Talks on productivity, particularly on new working methods on some computer services in the south east, are due to come to a head in the summer and the unions are hoping for further pay awards for their cooperation.

The unions had claimed increases ranging up to 30 per cent with £100 minimum.

A board spokesman, welcoming the decision, said last night: "The task ahead is clear. We have to restore efficient coal production and regain the markets we have lost."

● Mr Henry Richardson, the left wing miners leader, failed in his High Court bid yesterday to be reinstated as general secretary of the moderate Nottinghamshire area. He had sought injunctions restraining area officials from dismissing him.

League Against Cruel Sports wins hunt injunction

From Tim Jones, Bristol

The League Against Cruel Sports last night claimed a considerable victory after a test case at Bristol Crown Court which it claimed, would lead to the abolition of all hunting in England and Wales.

But the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds, against which the action had been brought, claimed that the ruling represented only a minor victory which would have virtually no effect on field sports.

The judge, Mr Justice Park, whose last case it was before retiring, said: "It seems to me that both sides have lost and both sides have won."

damages to the league of £180 for seven cases of trespass by the hounds of its five properties granted a permanent injunction restraining the hunt of its agents from entering the 27-acre Pileigh sanctuary, where the will to prevent trespass had, he said, been absent.

After the case Mr Richard, the league's executive director, said: "This victory will snowball and will eventually lead to the end of all hunting in this country. The 50 local authorities who have banned hunting on 500,000 acres of land will be able to use this judgement as a precedent."

He said that the league would continue to buy sanctuaries on Exmoor.

Costs of the 12-day hearing, estimated at £70,000, were awarded against the hunt. Mr Justice Park awarded



A passage of tribute: Dame Peggy Ashcroft receiving her first Oscar yesterday in London for her part in Sir David Lean's A Passage to India (Photograph: John Manning).

Cash offer to MPs sparks propriety row

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A public relations company specialising in parliamentary business, with a Conservative MP as a leading director, has offered £5,500 towards the cost of a Commons select committee visit overseas on behalf of a client with a direct commercial interest in the outcome of the committee's inquiry.

The offer, which led to a dispute at Westminster last night, was made last week in a letter to Sir Hugh Russell, chairman of the Conservative-dominated environment committee, from Political Research and Communication International Ltd, which has Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, as a director.

PRCI, acting for the Lead Development Association, offered to fly the select committee, which is investigating nuclear waste, to Sweden to examine an advanced system for disposing of and storing high-level radioactive waste. The system involves the use of large quantities of lead.

The unique financial proposal was made within days of the select committee's having failed to get House of Commons officials to Sweden to inspect the system.

The Lead Development Association, which represents international lead producers, confirmed yesterday that it would like to join MPs on the visit and that it hoped they would be impressed by the disposal method.

Gorbachov accepts US invitation to summit

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan has had a positive reply to his invitation to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the new Soviet leader, to attend a summit meeting.

Although Mr Gorbachov has endorsed the idea, he has not specified a time or place, according to Administration officials.

Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, yesterday told an internationally-televised press conference, however, that the meeting might take place in New York in September, when the UN General Assembly begins its new session.

The first indication that the two leaders were moving towards a meeting came in an interview with President

Reagan published yesterday in The Washington Post.

Mr Reagan said he had had a reply to a letter, inviting Mr Gorbachov which he had sent with Vice-President George Bush at last month's funeral of President Chernenko.

He declined to disclose Mr Gorbachov's reply, but said: "We are in negotiations" and added that he was "hopeful that we can have such a meeting."

An Administration official who described Mr Gorbachov's reply as positive conceded that the shooting of Major Arthur Nicholson by a Soviet guard in East Germany last month had clouded arrangements. A more detailed Soviet reply was awaited.

Mr Lloyd said that hunting had been carried out on Exmoor for more than 200 years. "If hunting were to be banned the deer would be shot and poached out of existence. The hunt maintains a level of about 1,200 animals by killing about 100 of them annually."

"Without us, they would cease to graze in the open and become animals of the forest, hardly ever seen because they could never know when they were being stalked by a marksman."

Tories cut off cash for students

By Robert Morris

The Conservative Party embarked yesterday on a purge of the student element within its ranks when Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, announced the temporary withdrawal of Central Office funds from the Federation of Conservative Students.

Mr Gummer, who was travelling to Loughborough, Leicestershire, to address the federation's annual conference, departed from his scheduled text to deliver his bombshell after hearing about damage done by FCS members in a drunken party the previous night.

Three Scottish delegates were expelled from the conference and they and others may face expulsion from the party as a result of the disturbances in which doors were kicked in, fire extinguishers dragged off walls and excrement left in a shower.

The three disciplined members were Mr Donald Stewart, vice-chairman elect of the Scottish federation, and Mr David Dodds, both from Glasgow University, and Mr Blair Wilson from Stirling University.

Mr Gummer's drastic action, however, was seen by most of the students and will be seen elsewhere as an essentially political move to undermine the right-wing liberation faction which dominates the FCS and has been a source of mounting embarrassment to the party leaders.

Mr Gummer said: "Damage, hooliganism and sheer vandalism is totally unacceptable. Those culprits found will be recommended to the national union for expulsion and the national union will receive a report on this conference in general and on the role of the Scottish FCS in particular."

"The FCS branches in the colleges and universities concerned will pay the full cost of damage and the national union will have the power to make wholesale changes in the FCS."

Until the inquiry was completed and placed before the general purposes committee of the national union on June 12, Mr Gummer said he would suspend all payments by the party to the federation which receives £30,000 a year from Central Office funds.

Sainsbury will give gallery to nation

By Charles Kneivitt

Architecture Correspondent Sir John Sainsbury, Mr Simon Sainsbury and Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Here, are to make a gift to the nation of a new extension to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, for the exclusive use of the gallery.

Lord Annan, chairman of the trustees, would not be drawn on the possible cost of the scheme, but it is understood that up to £25 million may be available if required.

An advisory panel is to be set up to select up to six architects, including some from abroad, who will then be interviewed on their design approach to the building before one is appointed.

Yesterday's announcement, predicted in The Times, means that the competition-winning entry for the extension by Ahrends, Burton & Koralek, with Trafalgar House Developments as the developers, has been scrapped. They were appointed in December 1982 after an international architect-developer competition which attracted 79 entries.

Trafalgar House Developments agreed in January to surrender their claim to the Hampden site, next to the gallery, should the trustees be successful in their second attempt at attracting private funding for the extension.

Lord Annan described the gift as "most remarkable and munificent". As well as 22,000 sq ft of new top floor hanging space (an increase of about a third), the new building will provide space for temporary exhibitions, a lecture theatre, other educational facilities, a new gallery shop and visitors' restaurant. Some of these would be open outside normal gallery times.

Discussions have already been held with the Government about running costs. The building could be completed in three or four years.

Lord Annan said that the new building would be expected to relate sympathetically to the present building, designed by William Wilkins to have architectural distinction worthy of its site and to be complementary to Trafalgar Square as a whole.

Shopping for art, page 2

Israel frees detainees

Tel Aviv - The Israeli military command announced yesterday that hundreds of terrorist suspects detained in Lebanon were being released "as a gesture" (Moshe Brilliant writes). Hundreds of others were being transferred temporarily to a detention centre in Israel.

An official announcement said the released prisoners were mostly Shia Muslims and had not personally or actively

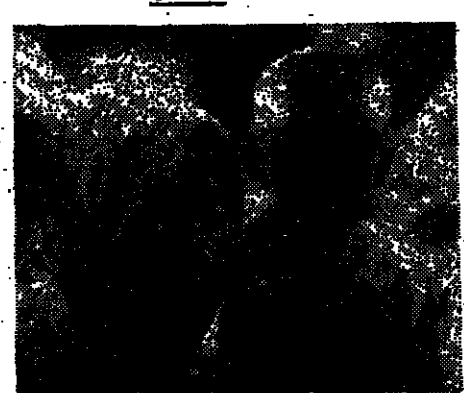
participated in attacks against Israeli troops or civilians. Several dozen others were being freed as a gesture to General Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army".

Brigadier Ephraim Lapid, the Israel Defence Force spokesman, said the Army decided to free the men today to improve its relations with the local population.

Full report, page 7

'AFRICAN CALVARY'

Said it all...



Now let's do something

Last night's documentary on BBC 2 showed the spectre of mass starvation that is Africa today. Mother Teresa's "Open Calvary".

Over 150 million people are at risk today in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan, Chad and the countries bordering the Sahara. Mohamed Amin's film has shown the extent of the problem. Now let's show the extent of the help. Please give generously to the African Calvary Fund.

Use the coupon below or donate at any branch of Barclays Bank.

AFRICAN CALVARY FUND

African Calvary Fund, World Vision, PO Box 123, Northampton.

My donation for £ is enclosed. I do not require a receipt. (Please delete as necessary).

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PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Ministers want a Channel link free of unions' stranglehold

By Jonathan Davis and Richard Evans

Senior Cabinet ministers are considering how to prevent trade unions gaining control over the day to day running of a fixed link across the Channel. The chances of a link being built are now considered odds-on, after the publication yesterday of joint guidelines by the British and French governments.

Announcing the move yesterday, Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said that the Government intended to pick one of the multi-billion pound rival schemes for a tunnel or bridge across the Channel by the end of the year. Bids have to be submitted by the end of October, and this will be followed next year by the introduction of the necessary legislation in Parliament.

Mr. Ridley refused to be drawn into saying what kind of scheme the Government most favoured. It would be wrong, he told MPs, to rule out either a tunnel or a bridge "in case we cut out a horse which might well turn out to be the fastest in the race".

Although publicly they are keeping an open mind on the two main options - a twin-bore railway tunnel costing £2,000 million and a combined bridge and tunnel link costing £4,500 million - privately Mrs Thatcher's closest colleagues are already pressing for the road option.

They fear a rail link could allow rail unions to hold the country to ransom during any industrial dispute by immediately closing it down.

The scheme to permit the non-stop flow of traffic, including lorries, between England and France, is also seen as the ideal weapon to destroy the power of the National Union of Seamen.

Poll boost as Labour launches jobs plan

By Anthony Davies Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday launched a Labour campaign for jobs and industry, and celebrated a 4 per cent lead over the Conservatives in the latest opinion poll.

The Labour leader told a London press conference that the Conservatives were "not working for work" and the purpose of the campaign was to show people that Labour had "the way to work".

Labour's strategy for growth would provide for investment, training and production, and Mr Kinnock said: "Unlike the present Government, we do not believe that the British economy can be shrivelled into health."

But there was no pretence that the policies had been fleshed out for the occasion. Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader and shadow Chancellor, repeated that on current figures a Labour government would invest an extra £5,000 million in the hope of creating an extra million jobs.

However, he refused to provide further detail on, for example, which imports would be curbed to give domestic industry "a breathing space", or what a Labour government would do if there was a breakdown in negotiated pay restraint.

The campaign launch, accompanied by a party political broadcast, coincided with publication of a MORI poll in *The Standard*, the London evening newspaper, which showed a one-point 4 per cent swing from Tory to Labour.

The poll gave Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 36 per cent, Alliance 23 per cent and others 1 per cent; a fall of 3 per cent in Tory support and an increase of 5 per cent in Labour support since last month.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, last night forecast that the plan would mean higher inflation and interest rates, if it was implemented.



Sir Seton Wills with his daughter Victoria, son James, and Lady Wills walking on the front lawn of Littlecote House; and (below) Victoria holding a Roundhead helmet (Photograph: Richard Wintle).

Civil War armoury in sale of Tudor mansion

By Geraldine Norman and Christopher Warman

The only surviving large-scale England Civil War armoury, the guns, buff coat and armour of the Littlecote garrison raised by Colonel Alexander Popham, is for sale, along with the sixteenth century manor of Littlecote, near Hungerford in Berkshire.

While underlining its historic importance, Mr A. B. E. Norman, Master of the Tower Armouries, said yesterday that he would prefer to see it remain in the house. "If it had to be sold, I don't know what we'd do".

Littlecote House belonged to the Popham family from 1589 until about 1900. It was sold to Sir Ernest Selter Wills, of tobacco fame, in 1929. His grandson, Sir Seton Wills, who has run a successful antiques business from the house for more than a decade, has now decided to sell up.



The trading stock of Littlecote Antiques will be run down over the next few months and it is expected to close in July. The remaining stock will be in Christie's auction. The Grade I listed Tudor mansion has in its grounds the remains of one of England's best-preserved Roman villas and Orpheus mosaic floor, dated 363 A.D. More than 20,000 people visited Littlecote last year. Property, page 32

Teaching union in favour of disrupting exams

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A majority of members of National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest teachers' union, are in favour of disrupting examinations as part of their campaign for a pay rise of £1,200.

But the leadership of the union, which has 127,000 members, believes that such action would not be politic, and will be trying to restrain its members at the annual conference in Torquay next week.

If the executive succeeds, the NAS/UTW is likely to adopt a similar position to last year, stopping short of targeting exams, but recognizing that industrial action must have some adverse effect on them.

Both the National Union of Teachers, the biggest union, and the NAS/UTW, said yesterday that their conferences next week would be the most crucial in their histories.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UTW, said: "The education system stands on the edge of a potential disaster. That stems from the apparent determination of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to say that while the Government understands teachers feel very badly paid, it has no intention of doing anything about it".

It showed that the Government placed little worth on

Rate rebel city's court action fails

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

A High Court judge yesterday refused to allow the rate-capped Sheffield City Council to challenge part of the Government's spending squeeze in the courts (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

The decision by Mr Justice Woolf complicated further the patchwork of attempts by 11 councils to delay fixing rates.

Most of the 11 are capped, and have said that they cannot fix a rate for the new financial year until the Government offers concessions.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a letter to two council leaders yesterday that he would not open talks that would give the capped group an excuse for prolonging their failure to fix a rate.

In the Sheffield case Mr Justice Woolf said that the High Court had jurisdiction. But it was right for matters involving political judgements to be left to "debate through the democratic processes rather than debate before the courts".

Other councils have brought similar claims that Mr Jenkins has been unreasonable in fixing grant levels.

Poll tax could cause a 'drop' in population

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Ministers considering a poll tax as an alternative to the rates may find that old habits die hard. Poll taxes as a means of raising revenue by the State have been unpopular for at least 1,500 years. They still are, judging from yesterday's meeting of the policy committee of the Labour-led Association of London Authorities.

Mr Tony Ritchie, leader of the rate-capped Southwark council in London, said that a poll tax would hit people on low incomes. Mrs Margaret Hodge, chairman of the association and leader of the capped Islington council, said: "It is a tax on the poor".

Such views will increase the attraction of the tax for ministers. A poll tax levied by the Government at a fixed rate would reduce the scope for Labour-led councils to use high rates to finance policies contrary to those of the Government.

Mr Phil Turner, leader of Camden council, said at the meeting that rates were used in his borough to switch resources from businesses to poor households.

But a poll tax could pose as many problems as the rates. Mrs Hodge pointed out that

£4m trains

The first new trains worth £4.2 million, have been ordered for British Rail's east coast mainline service between London and Peterborough.

Government concern on TGWU vote

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday told the Commons that allegations of ballot rigging in the Transport and General Workers' Union gave rise to "very serious concern".

Pressed by Tory backbenchers during question time he declined to make detailed comments but told MPs:

The stories that have so far emerged and the allegations made, including disciplinary action leading to the dismissal of union officers in Bristol, do give rise to very serious concern.

The Government had legislated to force unions to hold secret ballots in last year's Trades Union Act because it felt it was important for union elections to carry credibility.

Mr. Mostyn Evans, TGWU general secretary, said only three specific cases of alleged irregularities had been reported to Transport House, in spite of newspaper reports that there were other cases.

The most prominent of those investigated was the 1,300-strong local government branch in Bristol.

National Gallery extension

Sainsburys shop for art and social responsibility

By Richard Dowden

The Sainsbury family, which is to bequest to the nation an extension to the National Gallery in London, has been quietly patronizing the arts for a long time.

Sir John, Simon and Timothy Sainsbury are the three princes of the grocer family. Sir John Sainsbury has been chairman since 1969 and, under the motto "retail is detail", has run the business with ferocious efficiency. Simon Sainsbury retired from the board in 1979 and Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove and Assistant Government Whip, has also left the board.

They are the fourth generation of the firm which started as a dairy in Drury Lane in the late 18th century. The two brothers from the third generation, Lord Sainsbury and Sir Robert, are joint president of the company and David, Sir Robert's son, is financial director. The family shows no sign of giving up its controlling interest in the business although now there are only two Sainsburys on the board of 15.

It has made them very rich,

Scotland Yard issues 'bobby's bible'

Updated guidelines for the police

By Stewart Tandler Crime Reporter

What should the off-duty policeman do when he attends a party? A party finds other guests smoking cannabis? Or when his private car is overtaken by a speeding motorist? And should he join a band or an animal rights group?

These and other questions resurfacing the modern policeman are examined in a new policeman's guide nicknamed the "Bobby's Bible" published yesterday by Scotland Yard.

Officially entitled "The Principles of Policing and Guidance for Professional Behaviour", the book's 61-pages are intended as a late twentieth-century gloss on the original Primary Objects of the Police laid down in 1829 by Sir Richard Mayne, the first London police commissioner.

Sir Richard's single page of instruction has provided the basic principles of British policing for 156 years. The latest book, distributed to all 27,000 London police officers, lays down a nine-point code of professional duties and provides extensive guidance.

Yesterday, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner, said it was intended to help found "a professional culture" within the force and set out a "corporate policy".

"Before we had a rather sterile kind of guidance contained in the discipline code," Sir Kenneth said. The book was intended as something more positive that simply a list of things that should not be done.

The nine points cover preventing and detecting crime; upholding the law by

"sustaining wholeheartedly" rights of free speech, association, access to legal advice, remaining silent, and the presumption of innocence.

A police officer should treat all individuals with courtesy and understanding, show restraint and resolution when facing violence, and "use, with consummate skill, only such force as is necessary to accomplish a legitimate purpose".

The suggested methods call for courage, humanity, avoidance of peremptoryness, unbecomingness or tolerance, and the performance of duties without fear or favour.

The book examines in detail whether the police should be Freemasons. The advice, suggesting they should not, was printed separately last year by Scotland Yard. Cannabis

smoking and speeding come under a section on discretion.

"Your decision, in this as in all things on or off duty, should be made with a sharp eye to what is feasible and likely to achieve your purpose as well as to what is strictly legal."

"Depending on how flagrant the smoking has been, whether there was encouragement to others to smoke or whether there was any attempt to sell cannabis you may leave the party and go to the local police station to report the facts so that they can take such immediate action as they consider appropriate."

The policeman could stay and try to identify any drug dealers. But if the smoking was isolate, without signs of dealing, and the material was doubtful, the policeman could advise colleagues later.

Ministry yields land for cruise protesters

The Ministry of Defence has reluctantly agreed to allow a 10-acre field to be used for the Mole'sworth cruise missile base to be used for information and emergency services during the mass demonstration over the Easter weekend (Pat Healy writes).

The decision came after pressure from Home Office officials invited to inspect the area around the base by Cambridgeshire police. The police were concerned that disruption to local people could not be avoided unless the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had land for toilets.

The decision enabled CND to claim yesterday at a press conference held at the Mole'sworth protesters' "safe house" in Clifton, Northamptonshire, that inconvenience to local residents would be reduced to a minimum.

Inquiry after father is jailed for girls' assault

Birmingham social services is to hold a full inquiry into why two young girls were returned to their father, who had been convicted of sexually assaulting them, in spite of opposition from police and school authorities, Mr Paul Croft, an assistant director of the services said yesterday, after a judge had called for an investigation.

A few weeks after the children were returned to their parents they were again being subjected to regular sexual attacks by their father, Birmingham Crown Court was told.

Mr Justice Hodgson said it was a "tragic" decision by the social services and added: "It is very difficult to believe

that any judicial body with police opposition would have permitted these children to go back home. For if they had not gone back it may be all this would have been avoided."

The father, aged 35, who admitted three charges of indecency, against the girls aged 12 and 13, was jailed for a total of three years.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20.00, Belgium \$15.00, Canada \$22.00, Denmark \$18.00, France \$20.00, Germany \$22.00, Greece \$18.00, Hong Kong \$20.00, India \$20.00, Italy \$20.00, Japan \$20.00, New Zealand \$20.00, Norway \$20.00, Portugal \$20.00, Singapore \$20.00, South Africa \$20.00, Sweden \$20.00, Switzerland \$20.00, Taiwan \$20.00, Thailand \$20.00, USA \$20.00, Yugoslavia \$20.00.

Falklands task force 'included' Polaris sub

By Our Political Correspondent

Whitehall sources have told Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, that a Polaris submarine was permanently stationed far to the South-west of Ascension in the South Atlantic during the Falklands conflict of 1982.

Speaking on the third anniversary of the Argentine occupation of the Falkland Islands, Mr Dalyell told a meeting in London that during the conflict two and at times three of the SSN nuclear-powered submarines had been protecting one SSBN, a Polaris submarine, in the southern Atlantic.

He said: "I have checked and cross checked this inside Whitehall."

Mr Dalyell said: "How are we to avoid the spine-chilling conclusion that the Prime Minister did not exclude the possibility, in circumstances of possible humiliation, of threatening a nuclear strike against Argentina?"

He also said that the new information about the escort role of the SSNs, probably Warspite, Superb, and Courageous, explained one of the "long-standing mysteries" of the conflict, that is: Why were Conqueror, Spartan and Splendid kept for so long in the war zone that Conqueror certainly came close to running out of food.

"The reason it transpires now, is that we did not have the SSNs to relieve them; they were guarding the Polaris submarine."

£4m trains

The first new trains worth £4.2 million, have been ordered for British Rail's east coast mainline service between London and Peterborough.

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The application list for the above Offer for Sale will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 4th April 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter. Applications may be lodged by hand either: not later than 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 3rd April 1985 with the branches of Barclays Bank PLC specified on page 30 of the Offer for Sale document.

or: not later than 10 a.m. on Thursday, 4th April 1985 with Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues Department, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4.

It is expected that letters of acceptance will be despatched to successful applicants by Friday, 12th April 1985. In the event of possible postal delays at the time of despatch, it is envisaged that alternative arrangements will be made, including making letters of acceptance available for collection.

Telephone enquiries should be directed to Kleinwort, Benson Limited (Tel: 01-623 8000).

We can't take away the pain this child has been through. But with your help, we'll do our best to make sure it never happens to her again.

Attacks like this, take place in your area everyday. And it's only with your donations that we can give aid and comfort to the victims.

Her father bruised, burnt and broke her arm. Now we want to twist yours.

Last year, over 40,000 children relied on us for help, and there's no sign of a significant reduction in the number of children who need help.

Anything you can send will be used to provide help immediately, for example even if you send as little as £15.48 it could protect a child for a fortnight.

When you realise what your money will achieve, you'll find that having your arm twisted doesn't hurt at all.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £..... Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No. [] BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature []

Name []

Address []

Postcode []

Please send your donation to: Dr. A. Gilmour, NSPCC, Ref. 50304, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

One child at hand NSPCC

Coroner risk lessened by pill

Recharged Montego can reach 126mph

Coroner prais services in

One child a week dies at hands of parents, NSPCC report says

By Michael Horsnell

At least one child a week dies at home at the hands of its parents, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children disclosed yesterday.

Dr Alan Gilmour, director of the NSPCC, said it would be inappropriate to comment on the circumstances surrounding the death of Jamin Bickford, aged four, whose stepfather was convicted of her manslaughter last week in view of the current local authority inquiry.

But he asked: "Why do we seem to need the stimulus of a tragic child death to raise our levels of awareness of child abuse?"

Children from families which have no one to turn to in times of emotional or financial stress were those most at risk.

Of the 677 cases of suspected child abuse notified between 1977 and 1982 social isolation was a big stress factor in 23.5 per cent.

In 1983, when a further 1,109 children were placed on NSPCC

abuse registers, that proportion rose to 25.9 per cent.

Most of these children had been physically injured, Dr Gilmour said, but thousands more were suffering a wide range of hardships because of families being cut off from their communities.

Neighbours tend to shun shabbily dressed mothers with equally shabby, and sometimes noisy, children, who were suffering neglect.

But if neighbours took the attitude that by confidentially informing the NSPCC of abuse they were getting parents out of, rather than in to, trouble, much abuse might be prevented.

"Social isolation is clearly one of the most preventable stress factors and we can all help by being good neighbours. Ironically many of the families who most need community support are difficult to like and seem ungrateful and hostile to offers of help," he said.

"In some cases, professional involvement may be the only

answer, in many cases the NSPCC can be the bridge between isolated families and their communities."

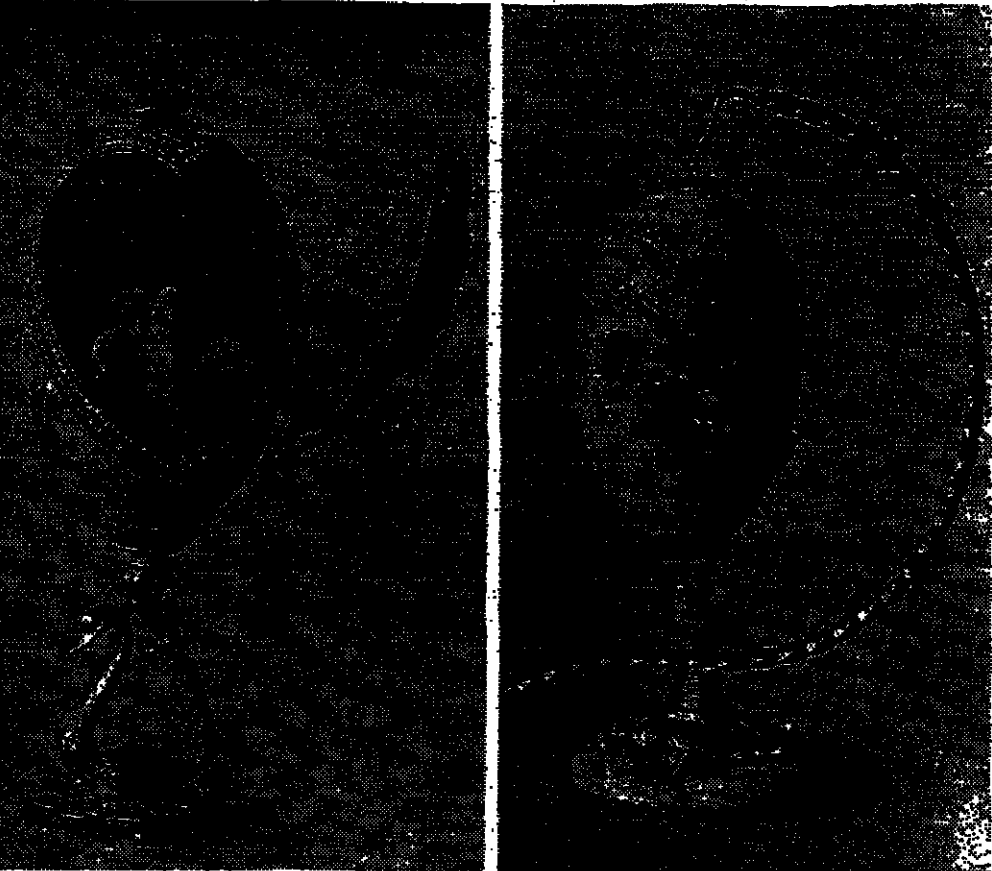
By building the confidence of families and introducing them to playgroups, day centres or babysitting circles, "and just by being willing to listen, we can protect the children."

The society is to set up 60 child protection teams throughout the United Kingdom, thus ending the role of its 230 cruelty inspectors.

From last September inspectors have started to be incorporated into child protection teams, a wider group of professional people, which aim to provide a more comprehensive investigation and support service to parents and children.

A campaign to prevent children being hurt in accidents at home will be launched this summer by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, which said about 90 children were taken to hospital every

Gentle art of egg-painting



Exact work: Three examples of British egg art by Rose Hetherington: using (above) ornate goose eggs and (below) that of a Rhear for the "State coach" (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

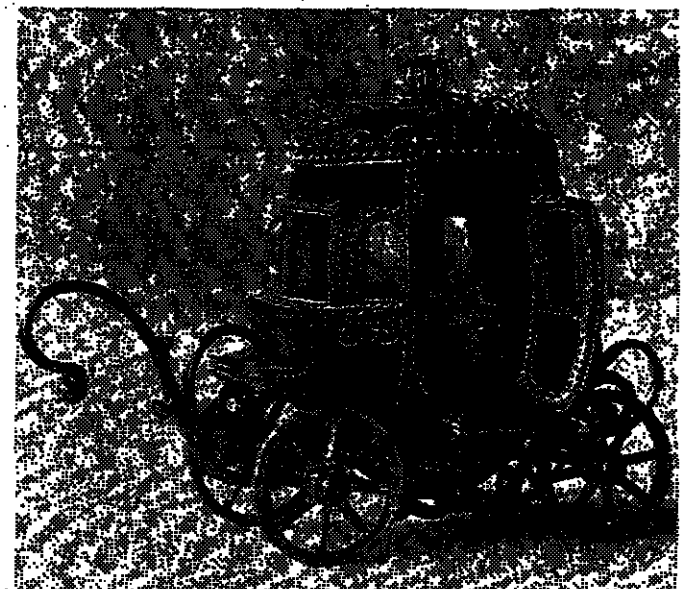
The first exhibition of the British Egg Art Guild opened to the public last night at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

The exhibition aims to increase public awareness of the traditional art of eggshell decorating.

More than 300 decorated eggs are on view from 11am until 9.30pm from today until April 8 and from 11am till 6pm on April 9.

"Decorated eggs at Easter have their origins in the dim and distant past," Yvonne Wraige, president of the guild, eggshell artist and sponsor of the exhibition said.

The original Easter egg of this country was the pace egg, the word "pace" being derived from the Latin word "pascha" meaning "Easter". These pace eggs were dyed with natural materials such as logwood.



3% rise in price of houses

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

House prices in Britain increased by an average of 3 per cent in the first quarter of 1985, according to the Nationwide Building Society, in its bulletin published yesterday. This maintained the annual rate of increase at 14 per cent, almost three times the estimated increase in the retail price index, and twice the rise in average earnings, it said.

While the average price of a house at the end of March stood at £23,850, in Greater London it was £46,510, an increase of 6 per cent, and an annual increase of 19 per cent. In Yorkshire and Humberside, the cheapest region, the rise for the quarter was only 1 per cent, with prices averaging £25,290 and annual increase of 12 per cent.

The average prices of new properties increased by 5 per cent in the first three months of the year, an annual rate of increase of 13 per cent, compared with 11 per cent for 1984.

'Call police' plea in computer frauds

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

The head of Scotland Yard's fraud squad's computer unit has called on British banks and financial institutions to stop concealing computer crimes, and have faith in the skill of the police to find the culprits.

In an interview with *The Times*, Det Insp John Austen, who heads a four-man team trained to deal with computer-based fraud emphasized how difficult detection of such crimes could be without the help of the public.

"The law of the land applies to everyone in all environments, including computers. It is not up to employers to decide whether someone is guilty and what punishment should take effect," he said.

The fraud squad has been building up its computer expertise for ten years, and Det Insp Austen went to America for training by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Thieves who tried to kill given more life terms

Two armed robbers already serving life for the attempted murder of a police officer were each given two further life sentences and prison terms totalling 425 years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Steven Korsak-Aquah, aged 30, and Derrick Rossi, aged 30, were found guilty on unanimous verdicts of the attempted murder on January 11, 1983, of Police Constable Stephen O'Rourke, aged 28, and a motor cyclist, Mr Gerald Leach, aged 46, who both intervened when the two men tried to rob a security van in Marylebone High Street, central London.

In addition to the life sentences, Korsak-Aquah, of Hanover Road, Tottenham, and Rossi, of Wynford Road, Islington, both north London,

were each given concurrent jail terms, the longest 18 years, for a number of other offences arising from robberies. Korsak-Aquah's terms totalled 290 years and Rossi's 135 years.

The jury convicted them of attempting to rob the security guards in Marylebone High Street.

Both were additionally found guilty of a £16,000 robbery at the National Westminster Bank in Finchley Road, Hampstead, north London, on January 17, 1983, and having firearms with intent to commit an indictable offence on the same day.

Rossi was convicted of a £1,750 raid at Lloyd's Bank, Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, north-west London, on November 23, 1982, and having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Cancer risk 'lessened' by pill

By Our Science Correspondent

Women are more likely to be protected against cancer by taking a contraceptive pill than at risk of cancer from it, Dr Malcolm Pike, a leading researcher, said yesterday.

He also argued that the lives of 1,000 women a year in Britain would be saved if screening tests were more efficient.

Pike, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiological unit in Oxford, is co-author of the study which last year showed risks of cancer with some high-strength level pills no longer prescribed in Britain.

Last week an international study collated by the World Health Organization suggested a link between the pill and cervical cancer, which kills 2,000 women a year in Britain.

However Dr Pike said: "The mystery is not why the pill may cause a certain type of cancer, but why it not protect against certain types."

The pill was known to protect against cancer of the womb lining and against ovarian cancer. "Why does not also protect against cancer? That is what we have to find out," he said.

Dr Pike said he felt that sexual activity was more likely to be a cause factor in cervical cancer than the pill was. There was a need for more data on the sexual activity not just of the women themselves but also of their husbands or partners.

"We are unlikely ever to be sure if the pill increases the risk of cervical cancer," he said.

Dr Pike and Professor Martin Vessey of Oxford University are half way through a study in which 800 women are being asked to identify the brand of contraceptive pill they have taken and their medical histories are scrutinized for links.

Yesterday, at the presentation of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's annual report, Dr Pike and Dr Walter Bodmer, director of research, agreed that 1,000 women could be saved from death from cervical cancer if the present screening system was more efficient.

Private medicine and NHS 'poles apart'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The National Health Service and private health organizations look upon co-operation with each other as a "last resort" and neither has a hopeful vision of future collaboration, according to a study of their working relationships.

The present situation, in which the two sectors function largely independently, "in reality benefits no one" because each decides what is best for it and not what is best for the individual patient or for society, the study says.

"The present polarity of views is not conducive to a productive and informed debate on what should be the governing factors of a co-existent, collaborative partnership."

"Such lack of clarity is a serious handicap to the emergence of any sound policy guidance," the Nuffield Centre for Health Services Studies, which produced the report, says.

A research team at the centre sent questionnaires to 158 private health organizations and 161 health authorities.

The team found entrenched attitudes, suspicion and resentment within health authorities, while less than 10 per cent of those in the private sector were hopeful enough to say that they saw no barriers to collaboration.

The views of health service union and staff groups and members of district health

authorities were seen as a crucial influence, and "in some areas political factors preclude any links".

National Health paybands were seen by both sides as a particularly problematical and contentious issue. Health authorities saw the development of private sector beds as a threat, while private hospitals looked on NHS paybands as potentially unfair competition.

Three authorities complained of losing between £100,000 and £150,000 a year in paybed income as a result of increased private beds in the area.

However, the study found a considerable number of collaborative arrangements in existence, and most respondents recognized the potential benefits of co-existence.

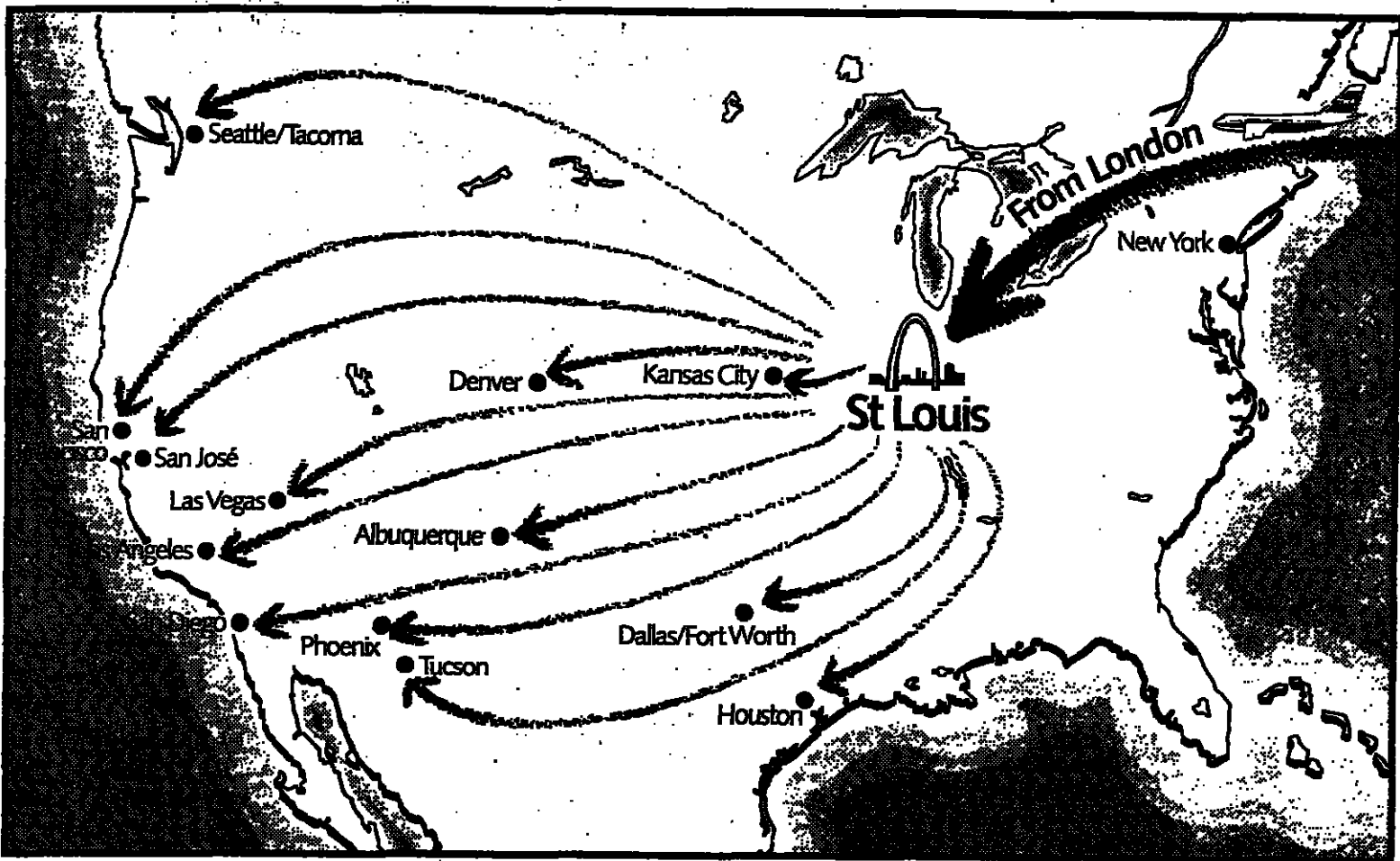
Some private hospitals emphasized the prestige value of being located near a large teaching hospital, while those questioned in the NHS said that good private facilities near by helped to attract high-calibre consultants to the area.

But the research team found that each side gave low priority to collaboration and viewed it "as an avenue of last resort when efforts at achieving an in-house solution fail".

Towards a New Understanding (Department of Social Policy and Health Service Studies, Nuffield Centre for Health Services Studies at the University of Leeds, £3.95).

Starting 29th April

Meet Me in St. Louis.



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which is a lot less busy with international flights. Only TWA has international flights into St. Louis, so you'll have exclusive use of customs and immigration facilities. It all means that going to America through St. Louis makes a lot of sense, whether you're on business or pleasure.

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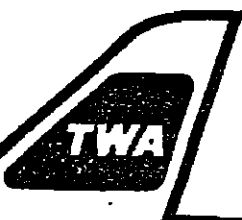
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St. Louis is an ideal entry city for destinations in the US interior because it's already in the very heart of America. It's known as the gateway to the West. Other cities like Phoenix or Denver are easily reached. TWA flies non-stop to over 50 cities from there. You can save a lot of hassle too - St. Louis is a great airport.

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As a special introductory offer you can get an Avis rental car FREE for three consecutive days. This is operated in association with Traveller's Jetways. Car is available at St. Louis or your final TWA US destination. Insurance, taxes and fuel extra. Car rental offer good until May 31. May not be taken in conjunction with other TWA car hire offers.



Leading the way to the USA



Coroner praises rescue services in gas blast

Verdicts of death by misadventure were recorded yesterday on all eight victims of the gas explosions which devastated a block of flats in Putney, south London, on January 10.

The jury at Westminster coroner's court took 40 minutes to reach their unanimous decision after hearing evidence from health and safety experts and survivors of the explosion.

The explosion ripped a huge hole out of the centre of Newnham House. The coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, praised the work of the rescue services and the prompt response by gas officials after being alerted to a potential leak.

"I think the evidence has shown great efficiency by the Metropolitan Police that morning and also I want to express my admiration for the tireless efforts of the London Fire Brigade in those sub-zero

temperatures", Dr Knapman said.

"Also that morning, ironically, the mechanism for reporting and dealing with the gas leak went with seemingly faultless efficiency. Also it was too late," he said.

He singled out a Segas engineer, Mr John Cocks, who was called to the site when residents smelled gas, for special praise because of the speed at which he got there.

Dr Knapman described the explosion as "a tragic accident" and added: "I make no formal recommendation" as I have every confidence the Health and Safety Executive will make such recommendations as they think appropriate."

A draft report on the findings of the executive has already been prepared, and a full report is expected to be ready in the next few months.

Record audience for BBC's foreign services

By David Hewson
Art Correspondent

The international audience for the BBC's overseas broadcasts has risen by 20 per cent during the past four years to 120 million people, according to research published by the corporation yesterday.

The survey claims that the audience for the BBC's External Services and World Service is now higher than at any time in its history.

It shows that most new listeners are in the Indian subcontinent, West Africa and the Arab world.

The foreign-language services of the BBC attract an audience of 100 million, while 25 million listen to the English-language World Service and five million tune in to both services.

One of the largest growth areas is among Afghan refugees.

Minister attacks Labour over pledge to repeal

TRADE UNION LAW

After a firm commitment had been given by Mr John Evans, an Opposition spokesman on employment, that the next Labour Government would repeal every scrap of Tory anti-trade union legislation, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, commented in the Commons amid Conservative cheers and Labour protests: "We now see the party of the ballot riggers in full cry."

Mr Evans had contended there was mounting suspicion that certain Government ministers, particularly the Prime Minister, were urging industrialists in general and the chairman of nationalized industries in particular to use Tory industrial relations legislation to create industrial dispute situations so that they could take the unions on.

Co-operation, not confrontation, is what is necessary (he said) to put right Britain's economic problems.

Mr King replied that he had listened to the statement about repeal coming from the Front Bench with the full authority of the Labour Opposition.

We now see (he continued) that union members in future are to be denied secret ballots and that in future union members are not to be allowed a say before they are told by their union that they have to strike.

There were references to recent allegations of ballot rigging in elections held by the Transport and General Workers Union in exchanges when Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands, C) asked if the minister was satisfied with the operation of the Employment Acts 1980 and 1982 and the Trade Union Act 1984.

Mr King said it was already clear the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts and the 1984 Trade Union Act together represented a significant improvement in rights of union members both in protecting them against abuses of closed shop power and ensuring that their views were taken into account before being required to take industrial action.

Mr Knox: Has this legislation been framed to deal with ballot rigging? Will it deal with allegations of ballot rigging in the TGWU?

Mr King: That election took place prior to the provisions of the 1984 Act which came into effect on October 1 this year. The most important change - and very relevant - is we required with immediate effect in July last year the setting up of a new register to come into effect on October 1 to keep an accurate and correct register of members and provisions of the presumption in favour of postal voting will also apply. That will help in this situation.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab): What is really needed rather than anti-trade union Acts are Acts that would strengthen trade unions, particularly against companies like Elextronics, Clearing & Blisley where 130 women cleaners have gone on strike because their wages have been reduced by 21p an hour and from £25 to £22.50 a week, despite the fact this firm's profits have gone up by 32 per cent.

Will Mr King not advise his colleague the Secretary of State for the Environment to sack this anti-trade union firm from its contracts as cleaners of the House of Commons and House of Lords? Will he do this despite the fact that they do make contributions to the Conservative Party?

Mr King: I fail to see how any MP can possibly describe as anti-trade union provisions that give greater democracy to union members (Conservative cheers) and I am reinforced in that point of view by the Mori Poll carried out for Union World on Channel Four which found that 75 per cent of union members supported secret ballots for union elections.

These are precisely our provisions and I am glad to see they have the overwhelming support of union members.

Mr David Madel (South West Bedfordshire, C): Should not the TUC satisfy itself that everything was done correctly in recent elections in the TGWU?

Mr King: Without wishing at this stage to enter into details of this particular union election, quite clearly the stories that have so far emerged and allegations made including disciplinary action already taken leading to the dismissal of a union officer in Bristol, do give rise to very serious concerns.

It is precisely because it is important that union elections carry credibility that we took through provisions in the Act which will prove to be overwhelmingly to the good reputation of unions in future.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): Ministers rejected

proposals from these benches and from Conservatives for the introduction of secret postal ballots in the 1984 Act. Do not the TGWU irregularities only confirm the evidence that we presented to the committee and to this House at that time?

Will he not reconsider the Government's position and introduce secret postal ballots in the law as the norm for trade union elections?

Mr King: I think his memory fails

Walker: Acts redress the imbalance

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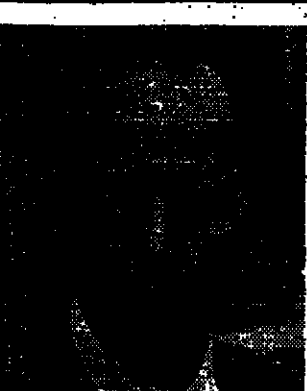
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Evans: Every scrap of legislation will go

him because changes we subsequently made required that, so far as reasonably practical, everybody who is entitled to vote in an election must have sent to him at his proper address and by post a voting paper and be given convenient opportunity to vote by post.

My understanding is that it is likely the TGWU will be changing their arrangements in future for the election of their national executive committee precisely because of the need to conform to that new requirement.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C): These Acts were put on the Statute Book to redress the imbalance that was brought about by Acts put on the Statute Book by the Labour Party which gave powers to trade union barons and leaders and removed those powers from their members. This Government is putting them back where they belong - with the membership - and making the leadership accountable.

Mr King: I agree. Labour MPs are fond of criticizing this legislation. I just want to hear from them whether they are proposing at some future stage - if they ever have the chance - to take away the right to have a vote before being called out on industrial action.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): When is he going to recognize that the Labour Party has not made employees stay at work when they feel very strongly about an issue such as we saw yesterday (Monday) at Mount Pleasant Post Office.

Just as in all previous times when anti-trade union legislation has been passed by a Conservative-dominated House of Commons, so this law will be repealed.

Mr King: He shows with his question just how far he is totally out of step with the general stream of union thinking. It is my understanding that in the postal dispute the union leadership is going to invite its members to have a vote in a proper ballot and I hope all the House would welcome that development.

Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C): Time is ripe for further action and for issuing a Green Paper about the possibility of making strikes illegal, have made the last 10 years of legislation by the Labour Party.

Mr King: That is not what we put before the country. We said we would consult on essential services, on making sure essential services were covered by adequate procedures agreements, breach of which could lead to loss of immunity. I am considering that matter in the light of the recent miners' dispute to see if we can learn any lessons from it.

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Tebbit warning on post monopoly

POSTAL DISPUTE

If there was a dispute which damaged mail services, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons: he would give an early and quick decision to the question of suspending the Post Office monopoly of letter delivery services.

In a statement about the possibility of disruption to postal services as a result of industrial action by members of the Union of Communication Workers, Mr Tebbit said that subject to certain derogations, the Post Office enjoyed the exclusive privilege of providing a letters service in the UK.

In July, 1980 the then Secretary of State for Industry, Sir Keith Joseph, told the House that powers were available to remove the monopoly, either in a local area or nationally, and that these powers would be used in the event of industrial action within the Post Office which resulted in a cessation or serious decline in the quality of service.

Mr Tebbit added: That remains the case.

He reported on the walk-out by UCU members at the Mount Pleasant sorting office after some members refused to operate the optical character recognition machine and were suspended. He understood that following an injunction granted to the Post Office by the High Court, a shift had been reported at 2 pm and the OCR machine was operating normally.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said settlement of the differences between the Post Office manage-

ment and the UCU over the difficult matters such as the large increases proposed in part-time workers and the OCR machine could be satisfactorily achieved by negotiation.

At this moment (he went on) discussions are taking place between the executive of the UCU and the chairman of the Post Office. Would he not do better to encourage this attempt to settle the dispute rather than at this delicate stage making a provocative and ill-judged threat to withdraw the Post Office's monopoly?

Mr Tebbit: I have made no threat whatsoever. There has been no provocation and nothing that has been done by myself or the Post Office management has been ill-judged. I welcome the fact that the negotiations are, I understand, continuing.

Mr Tebbit: He talks about the introduction of new technology as if this machine had not been working for a long time. It has been working for a long time. New technology means major changes in the way we work, and we have to be realistic about that.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C): Will he invite the TUC support the Post Office in cutting down overtime and employing more people at present out of work?

Mr Tebbit: The view of the TUC was expressed in their paper presented at the March meeting of the National Economic Development Council. Although in limited cases for short periods overtime may be necessary, it rapidly becomes entrenched and inefficient. We all agree with that, don't we?

Mr John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab): The Government is now doing to the Post Office chairman exactly what they did to Mr McGregor in relation to the coal dispute - they are trying to bash the Post Office workers.

Mr Tebbit: He is right. As is ever ready to offer assistance, but it is up to the parties to agree whether they wish to take advantage of such assistance.

Mr Tebbit: The Post Office has used the negotiation procedure and has thereby ended the industrial action, so the question of the disruption of the monopoly does not arise at the moment. There is no problem with the post. Should the post be interfered with, I would have to consider the matter more carefully.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab): The fears felt by the workers at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in my constituency are exacerbated by the provocative action of the management to introduce new technology and productivity measures. It is more provocative for the Government to make implied threats about the future of the Post Office monopoly.

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Conditions set for construction of fixed cross-Channel link

TRANSPORT

The Government does not yet feel that a fixed link would be built across the Channel or not, but the Government had now reached full agreement with the French on the conditions which the promoters must meet, and the private sector now had a unique opportunity, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, said in a statement to the Commons.

He wished the promoters well in this great endeavour, he said in his statement about the publication of guidelines to potential promoters, entitled the "Invitation to Promote".

He did not want MPs to think the Government had pre-judged the issues. His concern was to ensure that there was adequate public consultation on the environmental, social and employment impacts were fully appreciated and that the financial conditions were fully met. All these matters would be carefully considered before the French and British Governments arrived at a decision.

A report drawn up by a working group of officials of both Governments on guidelines to give potential promoters a clear understanding of the requirements of the two Governments had been delivered on February 28, and on March 20 the Government met French Ministers to agree the final text of the guidelines and to decide on further points.

In particular, he said, it had been agreed that the closing date for proposals would be October 31, and that the two Governments would aim to reach a decision around the end of the year on which proposal, if any, they considered should be enabled to go ahead.

It had also been agreed that contingency work should begin now on those elements of the treaty which would be common to any form of link chosen.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said they welcomed any move to what she described as a considerable investment in the infrastructure. It is precisely this kind of infrastructure we have asked for from the Government for many years (she said) with the impact it will have on jobs and on industry.

From a quick examination of the final decision is taken the House will get every opportunity to debate every aspect of this new project.

Mr Ridley: Of course safety is paramount, both during the period of construction and during operation of any link. We will make it an important matter to satisfy ourselves the safety standards have been fully taken into account.

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

MoD may cut losses over £1,000m Tigerfish heavyweight torpedo

By Anthony Beving, Political Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence is considering the possibility of cutting its losses on the £1,000 million Tigerfish heavyweight torpedo.

Sir Gordon Downey, Controller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office, said in a report to Parliament yesterday that a 1982 investigation into the project's difficulties, the fourth such inquiry in 13 years, had concluded that control had been too fragmented.

"No one person was in charge of the total weapon system, there was no prime contractor to draw the weapon system together in industry, and there were problems between the

different authorities in the Ministry of Defence, the Navy and industry," he said. "Other causes were under-estimation of technical difficulties, insufficient development trials and inadequate funding and resources in the post-design phase."

The ministry began work on the project in 1959. Marconi took it over in 1972, and full fleet weapon acceptance was received in 1979, 20 years after inception. The cost of the project a year ago, at 1984 prices, was put at £951 million.

Yesterday, Sir Gordon queried whether the balance of new spending should not be swung towards the new heavyweight

torpedo project, the Spearfish, on which work began in 1981. He said there had been "encouraging progress".

"My staff discussed with the Ministry of Defence the economics of proceeding with further production orders for Tigerfish, as against committing further resources to improving systems management and enhancing Spearfish production if possible," Sir Gordon said.

"The ministry have this matter under review and I would expect them closely and continuously to monitor the cost-effectiveness of the balance of resources allocated to the Tigerfish project, taking full account of course, of operational requirements."

"The cost-effectiveness of allocating further resources to Tigerfish should be closely monitored," he said. The overall cost of the torpedo programme for Tigerfish, Spearfish and the lightweight Sting Ray up to the mid 1990s is put at more than £5,000 million at 1984 prices.

There has been an overall torpedo project management reappraisal in the wake of a further review last year, which referred to essential tasks not being performed, an unclear definition of responsibilities, and the need for improved information for decision-making.

History of unreliability

The Tigerfish is a submarine-launched torpedo weighing about 1½ tons, with a speed of up to 35 knots (Our Defence Correspondent writes). After its long and difficult development, it has had a reputation for unreliability, since its introduction into service in 1979.

Although some improvement has been achieved in recent years, the Controller and Auditor-General appears to be hinting strongly that he doubts whether it can be made into a good weapon for the 1990s, and is suggesting that all the

Ministry's efforts should be concentrated on its successor, the Spearfish, which is much more advanced and is expected to come into service in two or three years.

Up to March last year, £131 million out of an estimated eventual cost of £950 million had been spent on Spearfish. In the last few years Britain's total torpedo programme has been concentrated in the hands of Marconi Underwater Systems, and this seems to be yielding significant benefits.

Wife fails in benefits fight

A woman whose husband is jailed is not single for family allowance purposes and has no right to income supplement, the Court of Appeal held yesterday.

It dismissed an appeal by Mrs Linda Elizabeth Taylor, aged 29, of Barry Road, Dulwich, south London, who had challenged a decision of a social security commissioner that her husband, although in prison, was a "member of the household." The judge held she had no right to family income supplement for herself and her son, aged 10.

Lord Justice Watkins said Mrs Taylor's husband, Peter, was jailed for nine months in April 1982, for dishonestly handling motor vehicles. She worked 30 hours a week in a baker's shop earning £46 net, and had £2.25 child allowance.

Lord Justice Watkins said the family was still one unit although the husband was in prison. "The court had been told that supplement officers in practice regarded a woman as single when her husband was jailed for a year or more. Anything under a one-year sentence did not count for granting a supplement."

Barrister loses goldfish case

Mr Frederick Parsons, a barrister who claimed £320 on his insurance policy after a heron swooped on the pond at his home in St Agnes Road, Moseley, Birmingham, and made off with 57 of his 64 goldfish, yesterday lost his appeal against Avon Insurance's refusal to pay.

At the county court in Birmingham Judge Toyn said goldfish were part of the animal kingdom and counted as livestock, not personal effects.

NCCL to advise killer's family

The National Council for Civil Liberties will look after the interests of the family of James Alexander Baigrie, the gunman who died in a van siege in Earls Court, London, on March 22.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, yesterday adjourned the inquest until April 29 after saying he had received a letter from the council. Baigrie was a convicted killer who escaped from Saughton Prison, Edinburgh, in October 1983.

Boy dies in sand pile

An inquest was opened and adjourned in Oxford yesterday on the death of a 10-year-old boy, who was smothered to death when a 2ft pile of sand collapsed on him as he played at his father's farm in Noke, Oxfordshire, on Monday.

Mr Geoffrey Hemman, aged 40, and his wife, Yelda, went in search of their son when he missed Blue Peter, his favourite television show, and found legs sticking out of a mound of builders' sand.

Hostages case remand

William Farr, aged 24, a telephone operator, appeared before magistrates in Guildford, Surrey, yesterday, charged with unlawfully and injuriously imprisoning three telephone operators during an incident in the town's British Telecom exchange on Monday.

Farr, of Waterdon Road, Guildford, was remanded in custody for a week.

'£1m saving' if Open University is reorganized

By Lucy Hodges

Reforms in the way the Open University is run, involving savings of £1 million, are proposed in an efficiency study published yesterday.

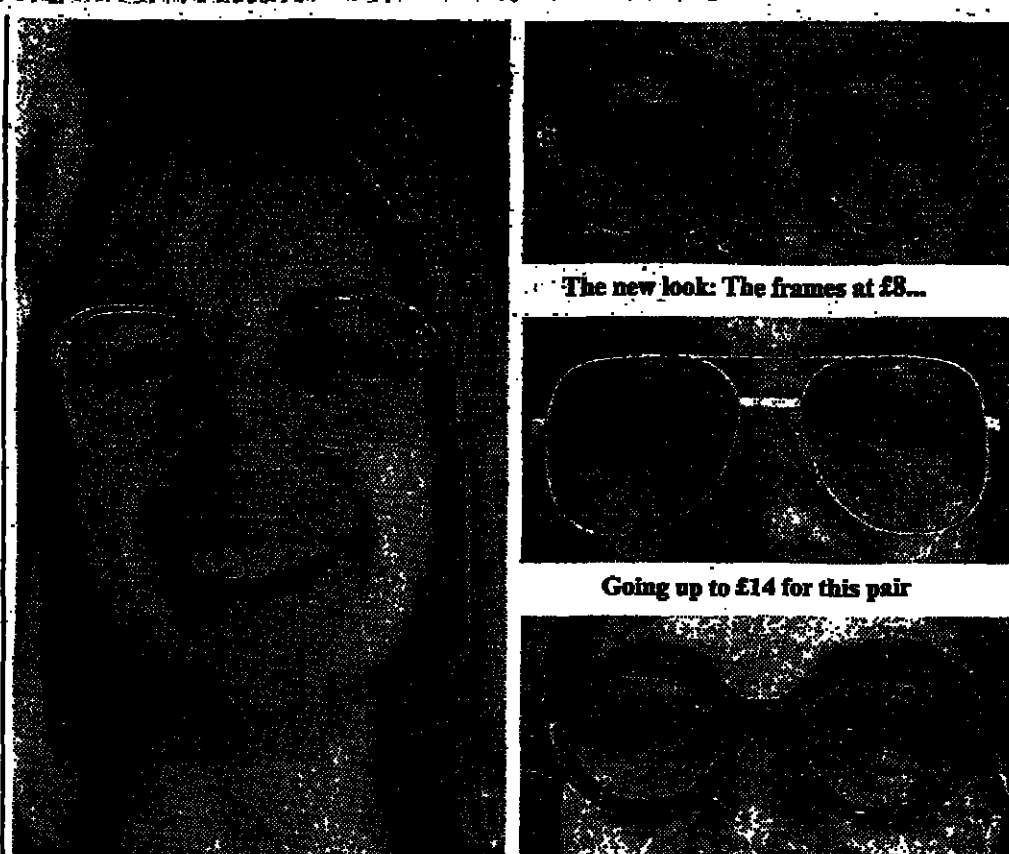
The report, which coincides with an inquiry into the efficiency of universities generally, was produced by a committee chaired by Mr Frank Ruhemann, a director of Tube Investments and vice-chairman of the Council.

It found inadequacies in the way the university planned for the future and allocated resources. Clear decisions were not made, proposals for change were deferred and money was shared out on the basis of historical allocations rather than priorities.

The study, carried out at the request of Mr Peter Brooke, Under Secretary of State for higher education, and with the help of management consultants Coopers and Lybrand, recommends that a group be set up responsible for strategic planning.

The vice-chancellor's management team would consist of not more than 10 people.

After looking at five of the university's activities, such as printing and publishing, the study identified £1 million a year that could be saved. Added to other savings which the university is making, total savings of £1 million in 1985, rising to £3.5 million a year in 1987, would be made.



Budget spectacles: The £8 set of frames (left) and the one priced at £10 (above)

Prices fall in spectacles war

Opticians are standing their ground in the high street battle for the £250 million-a-year market for new spectacles.

Forced into the market place by the withdrawal of government subsidies for spectacles, which took effect from Monday, opticians are selling "special-offer specs" and budget frames for the first time.

A random survey carried out

by The Times yesterday showed that the prices of spectacles from opticians have become competitive with those from special spectacle shops set up after the abolition of the opticians' monopoly last December.

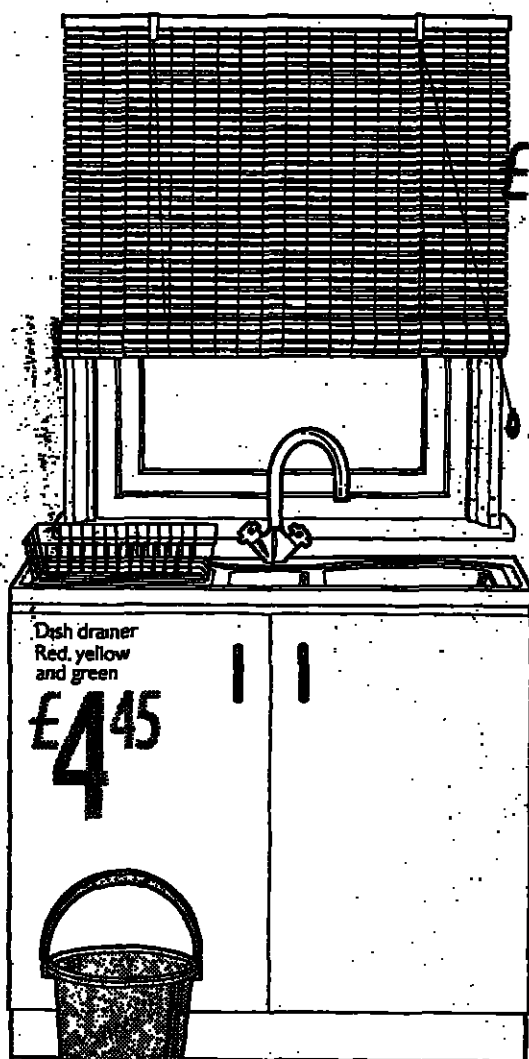
A pair of "special-offer specs", with designer Italian frames, were selling at P. C. Lawson, in Woolworth Road,

south London, for £25, inclusive of lenses.

"Budget-line" frames from optician George Shephard, in Fulham Road, in south-west London, ranged from £8-£14, which inclusive of lenses brought the cost up to £20-24.

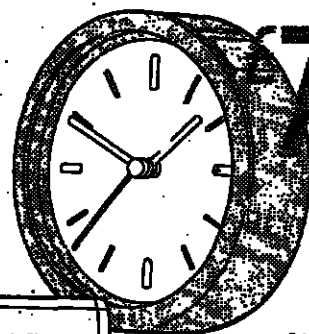
A pair of budget spectacles from For Eyes, an aggressive new company which has opened 12 shops since May 1983, sell for £24.95.

habitat



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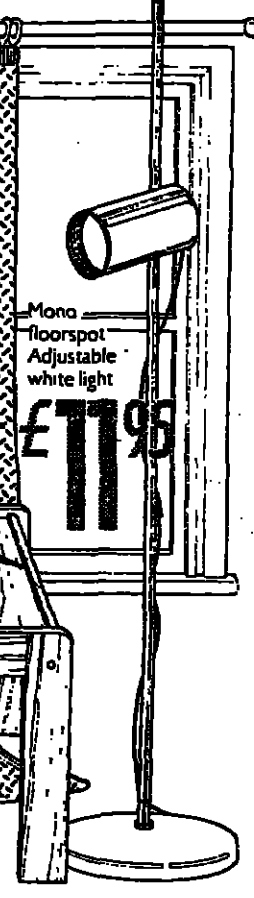
Basics clock
Six up-to-the-minute
colours

£6.95
Flip top bin in red
yellow and green

£1.95
Dustpan and
clip-on brush

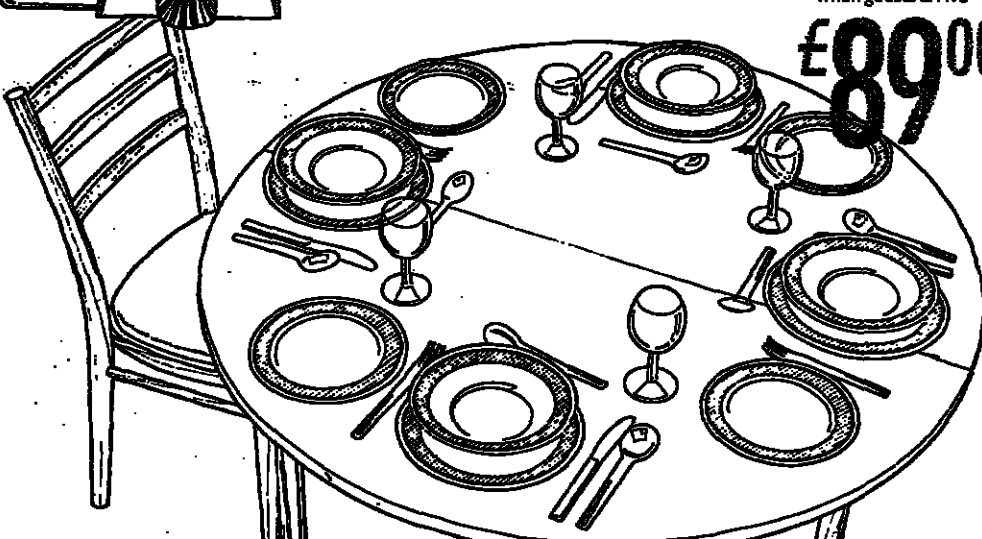


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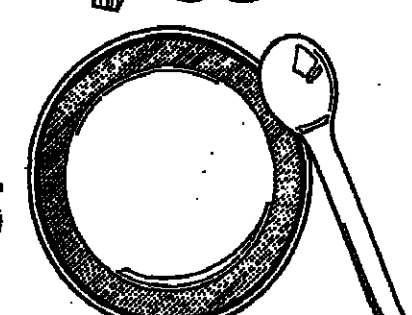
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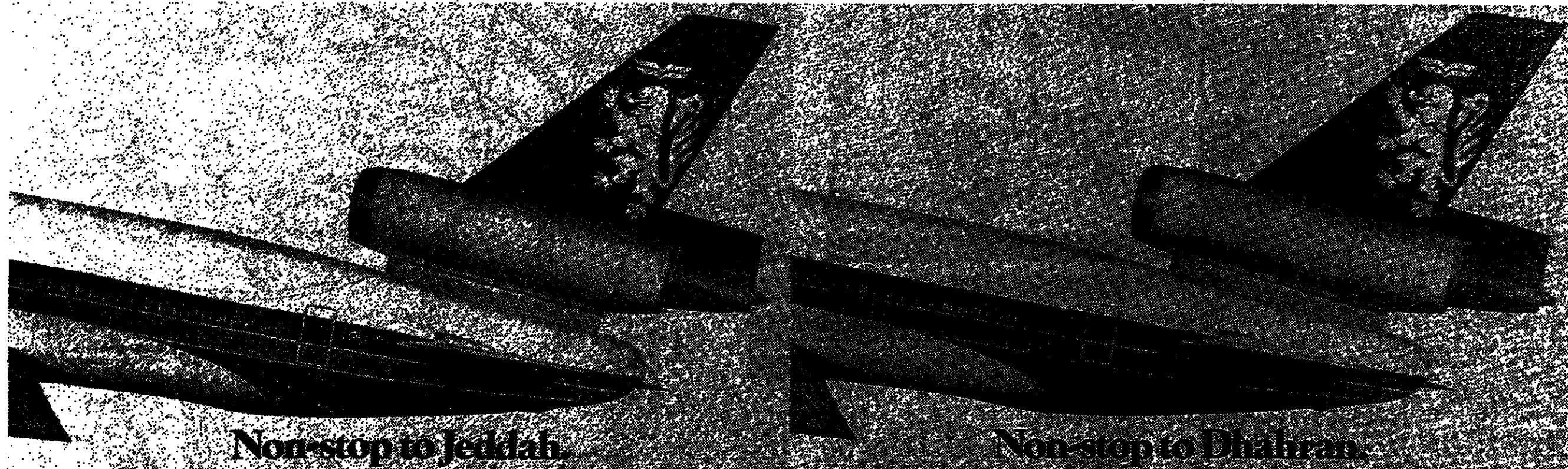
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Christian militia role in Sidon battle points to new amity with Israel

From Christopher Walker, Sidon

The front line of Lebanon's newest war zone is a cluster of suburban buildings in Sidon from which teenage Christian snipers with Virgin Mary stickers on their gun barrels speak warmly of Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's former Defence Minister, between shooting at Palestinian positions a few hundred yards away.

From the fifth story of the block of flats requisitioned as command headquarters of the Christian militia, we watched as the sides traded mortar, heavy machine gun, rocket and artillery fire. In a boarded-up room below, exhausted fighters slept beside an open box of grenades. Above the noise of the fighting, which has already claimed more than 70 dead and 150 wounded, Nazir Nazarian, aged 28, the Christian commander, denied Muslim charges that the two-week-old battle of Sidon had been inspired by or was being supported by Israel.

"We have not received any help from the Israelis yet, but in battle you can never tell how things will turn out," he said, though his broad grin could not hide his combat fatigue.

Certainly we share many common goals with Israel, because the Palestinians of Yasser Arafat are trying to make a comeback here. As increasing shooting signalled the breakdown of other ceasefire, Mr Nazarian, a supporter of the Phalangist militia against President Gemayel, warned that the fighting could last for months. Already more than 40,000 have fled.

As well as the Palestinians, who have returned in their hundreds to the two refugee camps in Sidon's shell-scattered suburbs, the Christian rebels are also fighting Muslim militiamen and Muslim units of the Lebanese army - which, it was announced yesterday, is to receive more reinforcements in Sidon.

Noel Daghar, a mountaineering Arabist, said the two mosques of a refugee camp on which his gunners were concentrating their fire. "The really heavy fighting has not yet begun. But this is Lebanon; you can be sure that one day it will," he said, with undisguised relief.

Saraya Khouri, aged 19, one of several strikingly attractive women helping in the command post, appeared unmoved by the fierce fighting close by. "For 10 years of my life I have known nothing but war. Why should I be afraid now?" she asked with a shrug.

Strategically, the Christians who dominate the high ground east of the old Crusader port are the stronger position. Truckloads of ammunition are being rushed to their gun positions, but it is impossible to establish how much was of Israeli origin.

Our bizarre journey to the front (euphemistically referred to by the Christians as "downstairs") had begun when we were driven across the border

by two athletes-looking Jewish men in unmarked cars who described themselves as employees of a Christian television station in south Lebanon.

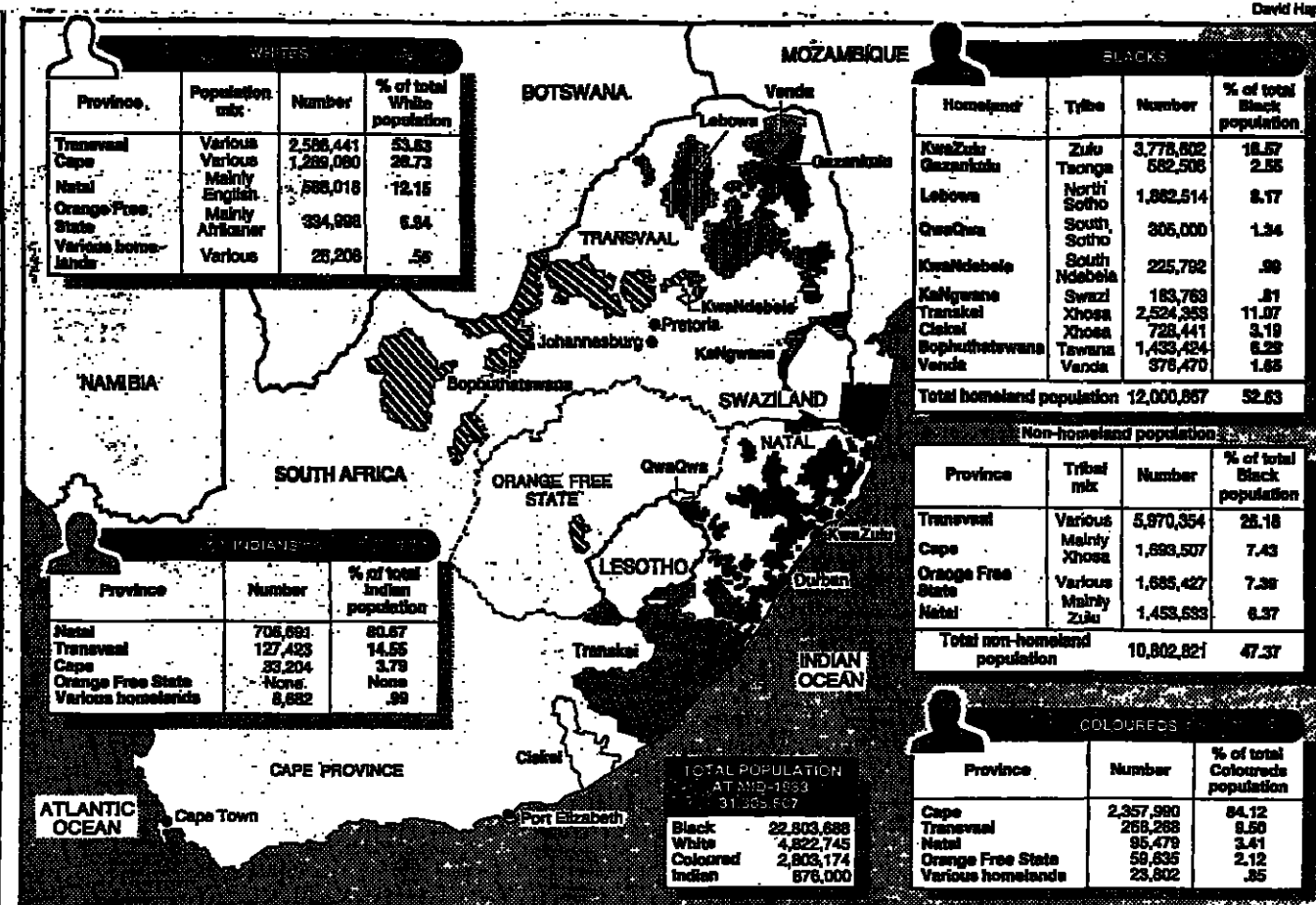
Later, with a Christian escort, Mr Nazarian after liaison with Israel's Northern Command, we were driven through the 25-mile corridor north of the border which Israel plans to control through its militia allies after the Army withdrawal next month.

The probable pattern for the future was made clear when we discovered an Israeli colonel supervising a road block of Lebanese Christian members of Israel's "South Lebanon Army" allies several miles beyond the Israeli withdrawal line of February 16. Near by were two grey-painted tanks.

Mr Nazarian confirmed that his men were working closely with the SLA, which is financed, trained, armed and directed by Israel. Between them, the two militias appear determined to resist any attempt by the legitimate Lebanese Army, to "reassert Beirut's sovereignty."

The inexperienced newspaper photographer of Hider, on the noticeboard at Mr Nazarian's headquarters illustrated the curious nature of the new relationship between the Israelis and the Lebanese Christian militiamen.

But it is unlikely to alter the fact that Israel will soon be depending again on Lebanese Christian militias as its first line of defence against fresh attacks on its vulnerable northern settlements.



Baby burnt to death in Cape violence

From Michael Horsbury, Johannesburg

A child, aged one, is the latest victim of the violent sweeping black townships in the Eastern Cape, which has claimed about 40 lives in less than two weeks. In Veelpaas, a township near Uitenhage, nine homes caught fire on Monday night after a shack was petrol-bombed. The black child was burnt to death in one of the homes. A boy, aged four, died in a similar incident in a township nearby last Friday.

Police said that during the night they had to use tear gas, rubber bullets and shotguns to disperse crowds blocking roads and stoning cars around Port Elizabeth. In the Rini township near Grahamstown, the mayor firing warning shots to disperse a crowd of about 500 youths stoning his house. Meanwhile, 40 supporters of the United Democratic Front, the anti-apartheid alliance, staged a protest against foreign investment on the premises of

Citibank in central Johannesburg yesterday. The protesters, who included Mrs Leah Tutu, wife of the Right Rev Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, delivered a statement to Citibank executives objecting to "the collusion of foreign companies" with South African Government violence against resistance to apartheid. The inquiry into the shooting of 19 black men, women and children by police on March 21 yesterday exposed more inco-

sistencies in the police and official versions of what happened. Lieutenant John Fouche, the officer who was in command, admitted there were differences between his sworn statement immediately after the incident and his evidence at the inquiry. He also disclosed that there were no clear guidelines on what weapons and equipment he and his men were required to take with them on anti-riot duty.

US woos Ozal for military foothold

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, who clearly views Turkey as a possible site for American military bases, conferred with Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, at the White House yesterday. The meeting was the highlight of a sharply improving relationship with the fledgling Turkish democracy. Mr Ozal's is the first official visit by a Turkish prime minister to the United States in 13 years. America is determined to build on its relationship with Turkey, particularly in view of repeated Greek warnings that American military bases will not be welcome after December, 1988.

Turkey's importance to America is indicated by the rapidly increasing American aid it receives. The Reagan Administration has requested \$939 million (about £770 million) in security assistance for Turkey in the 1986 financial year.

President Reagan, in an interview released yesterday with a Turkish newspaper, said the US was committed to helping Turkey modernize its armed forces as quickly as possible.

"We are doing our best to help ensure that a key ally has a strong defence," he added. "In order to do this we have more than tripled military assistance to Turkey since 1980."

A senior Reagan Administration official said Greece's threat to close down American bases "made it prudent" to seek other options. The US had begun to make contingency plans but no conclusions had been reached.

Prisoners freed from Lebanon camp

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Israeli Army began releasing hundreds of Lebanese Shia Muslim prisoners from its huge Ansar prison camp in southern Lebanon yesterday in preparation for its withdrawal from the country, dismantling watchtowers at the camp but taking other captives southwards towards the Israeli frontier.

A fleet of buses - their windows darkened with black paint, drove into the hilltop camp during the morning to transport Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners to other internment camps, apparently near the ruined village of Khiam, outside Marjayoun. At least 15 of the buses were later seen crossing the Kadala bridge over the Litani river, taking prisoners towards the Israeli border.

The Israeli Army later said that one group of prisoners was "being temporarily transferred to a detention facility in Israel" but gave no details of the numbers involved. Last night the familiar blue and white lights still glowed along the mile-long barbed wire fences of Ansar on its hilltop between Sidon and Tyre but it seemed only a matter of hours before the prison camp was finally closed down.

At least 1,800 captives, mostly Lebanese, have been held at Ansar without any form of trial or judicial process, and Lebanese Government officials suspect that the Israelis may move several hundred of them into Israeli prisons. In Israeli official terminology, they are "terrorist suspects" but Lebanese families say their young men were arrested by Israeli Shin Bet intelligence agents and interned at Ansar in an attempt to persuade relatives

to become informers and collaborators. After failing to crush the guerrilla resistance movement in southern Lebanon, the Israelis are anxious to placate Shia Muslim feelings in advance of their last withdrawal from the country. However, after the ferocity of Israel's village raids over the past month, the release of captives is unlikely to have much effect. The new security zone which Israel is planning to set up in the south of the country, which effectively means that the Israelis will not actually have withdrawn from all Lebanese territory, is likely to further embitter Shia sentiments.

Elsewhere in southern Lebanon, Israeli foot patrols searched houses in the villages of Bourj Rahat, Bourj Qasab, Na'ur and Al-Bayda, where they took six men prisoner after being ambushed.

In Beirut, the Government strove to give some substance to its public determination to end the Phalangist shelling of Sidon, ordering the National Army command to send an armoured convoy to the southern city. Thirty factory-new American-made armoured personnel carriers were driven across the Beirut front line during the morning yesterday and parked on the apron at Beirut airport in readiness for their move to Sidon. Machine-guns, however, were found to be missing.

Indeed, scarcely the only comfort the Lebanese Government could take yesterday arrived when another kidnap victim, Mr Gilles Sidney Peyrolles, the head of the French cultural centre in Tripoli, was released unharmed.

Europe told not to bypass Nato

By Rodney Cowton

The United States has cautioned the members of the Western European Union (WEU) against cutting across established consultative arrangements within Nato in their efforts to arrive at common European positions on issues such as defence and arms control.

At a meeting in Rome last October of foreign and defence ministers it was agreed to try to breathe new life into the WEU. Twice yearly meetings of ministers were to be held and attempts to be made to harmonize views on issues such as East-West relations, arms control and disarmament.

At about the end of last year Mr Richard Burt, the American State Department official responsible for European affairs, wrote to the member-governments of the WEU. The text of his letter has not been revealed, but it appears to have taken a cautious approach to attempts to co-ordinate a European position on arms control, saying that these should not be allowed to cut across existing procedures within Nato.

The next ministerial meeting of WEU is to be held in Rome on April 22 and 23. It is expected that from Britain it will be attended by both Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Secretary.

British hint of Star Wars link

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A hint of a potentially positive European response to the US offer of participation in its "Star Wars" research programme was given in Paris yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the British Defence Minister, after talks with his French counterpart, Mr Charles Hernu.

Mr Heseltine said he thought there was a recognition that research in the American Space Defence Initiative (SDI) was both inevitable and permissible under the existing treaty on anti-ballistic missiles.

He believed that it was an offer which should be taken seriously. Consultations were under way between the European partners in an attempt to co-ordinate their response, which he felt should be given as speedily as possible, though he was not "hooking" himself to a strict 60-day timetable set by Mr Casper Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary. Mr Heseltine declined to say whether Britain agreed with the German position that it would only be willing to participate in SDI research on condition that it was given full access to the technology involved.

Asked about a French suggestion of a separate European SDI research programme, Mr Heseltine said that he did not think there would be sufficient resources.

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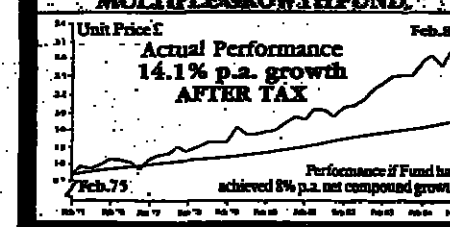
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could mean, look at the tables below. We show two figures - one based on the actual growth rate of 14.1% p.a., and the other on a conservative growth rate of just 8% p.a. Remember, while the cash value of your plan could go down, it could also rise even higher than the levels quoted here.

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Extra £1,740m needed for Community to pay its bills this year

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

The EEC needs an extra £1,740 million this year to meet its bills, according to a new draft budget issued by the European Commission in Brussels yesterday.

The new budget totals £17,600 million compared with the present legal ceiling of almost £16,000 million. A budget to the lower figure was rejected by the European Parliament last December and the Community has since been forced to make do without it.

The extra money will have to be provided through a second successive inter-governmental agreement between the member states. Britain's share of the total could be up to £300

million but it should receive a two-thirds rebate eventually.

The new budget has been put together after last month's agreement on financing the Community and on enlargement, which means that member-states are now prepared to find the extra money between them with no strings attached.

However, there is a certain to be an attempt to cut at least £360 million from the budget by member states when they study it in detail early next month. Most countries believe the Commission is over-estimating agriculture's needs by that amount.

The Commission's figure is,

however, based on estimates of what will be required if the agriculture ministers agree to its proposals on farm prices this year. So far, negotiations on this are deadlocked.

The new budget contains provision for spending an extra £24 million on food aid and there is likely to be no opposition to this.

It will be impossible for the budget to go before the European Parliament for approval before June, so the Community will have to muddle its way through until then.

If it is accepted, it will have to be debated in every national Parliament, which all have to give approval for the special inter-governmental agreement.

In Britain's case, it is unlikely that the debate in Parliament will take place until after the summer recess. Other countries will be even slower. At the best, it will be a close run thing between the money being agreed and the Community running out of cash.

Britain's agreed £600 million rebate for this year is not affected by the new budget proposals, since this has to be paid by an increase in contributions from the other member states after all countries have agreed to raise the present legal ceiling on EEC payments.

Pro-Nimeiry rally draws little support

From Paul Valley, Khartoum

About 3,000 demonstrators gathered before the presidential palace in Khartoum yesterday in support of the absent President Nimeiry after three days of rioting which have followed food price rises and strikes by hospital doctors and lawyers.

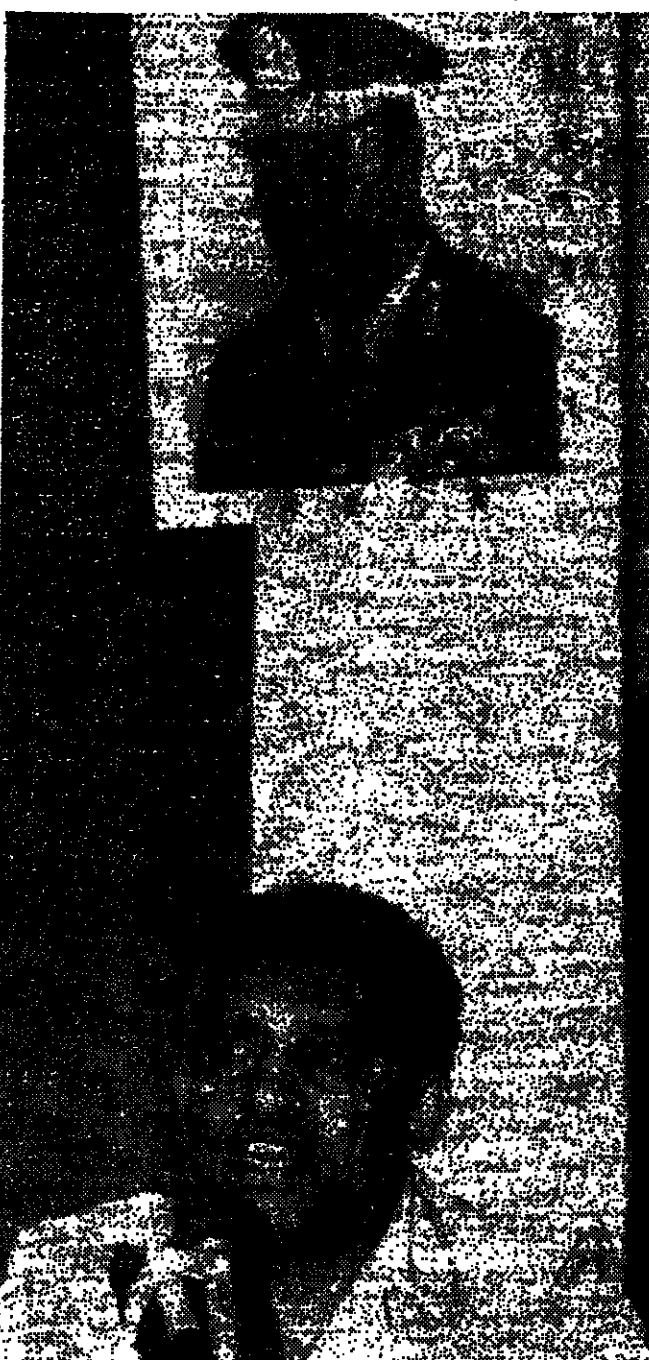
The crowd comprised mainly members of the Sudanese Socialist Union, the ruling party, who were brought to the centre of the city in government buses.

Supported by a cacophony of singing and cheering multi-tudes from a battery of loudspeakers and the music of a military band, the crowd shouted lengthy slogans like "The SSU condemns the revolution and achievements of both the people and the nation". One of the country's vice-presidents, Mr Rashid Taher Bakhr, relayed a message from Mr Nimeiry, who is in Washington.

It made no mention of the Reagan Administration's decision on Sunday to release \$67 million (£54 million) of frozen economic aid: in Sudan the US freeze has never been admitted. Instead, Mr Nimeiry congratulated the Sudanese on having resisted the blandishments of anti-government elements.

"They failed utterly in their attempts at destruction," his message said. Later another SSU speaker declared that the time had come to "remake the professional unions", a reference to the doctors, lawyers, academics and others of the middle classes behind the general strike planned for tomorrow.

Western observers feel the Sudanese Government will have been disappointed by the low turnout at the demonstration. They should have been able to muster more than this, and many of those based in and marched to the demon-



Arrest warning: Beneath a portrait of President Nimeiry, Mr Muhammad Osman Abu-Sag, an official of the ruling party, announcing yesterday that strike supporters will be arrested.

stration turned round and drifted off as soon as they arrived. "The big question now is whether the anti-government people will be able to raise a

Extremists lick their wounds in Salvador

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The sluggish official vote count in El Salvador has yielded nothing final yet, but no one doubts that President Duarte's moderate Christian Democratic Party has won a crushing electoral victory, wresting political power from the right for the first time this century.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the symbol of El Salvador's extreme brand of "conservative values", has remained silent. But privately several of his political associates, shell-shocked by the moderates' unexpected success, have conceded defeat.

Even Señor Duarte did not expect his party to win a majority in the National Assembly.

Speaking at his home he appeared surprised and delighted, saying the people of El Salvador had sent a clear message.

"The people want peace," he said. "The people here said 'no' to D'Aubuisson and his entire dirty campaign of insults. The people have said 'no' to oligarchy." Political observers, all caught off guard, agree with this interpretation.

"President Duarte's bold decision last October to begin peace talks with the guerrillas was the clincher," one diplomat said. That decision and a series of well-publicized wrangles between the President and the right-wing-controlled assembly in recent months gave dramatic form to widespread perception that the right was doing all it could to block his peace efforts.

The Christian Democrats did particularly well in those regions where the civil war is most fierce and where the people are most desperate for it to end.

The illiterate, under-nourished majority of voters apparently came to understand that Major D'Aubuisson's politics in no way represented their interests.

Vendetta led to 30 deaths in hotel fire

Taipei (Reuters) - A personal vendetta was responsible for Taiwan's worst hotel fire, which killed at least 30 people early yesterday.

Police in the southern city of Tainan said that witnesses saw a passenger in a taxi throw a fire bomb into a basement restaurant of the six-storey hotel there. Some guests, awoken from sleep, plunged to their deaths from windows in panic.

Ex-Speaker dies

Harare (AFP) - The former speaker of the Zimbabwe House of Assembly, Mr James Bassopo-Moyo, aged 65, died at his Harare home two weeks after being released from serving a two-year prison term for attempted murder.

Surgeon sacked

Abu Dhabi (AP) - A German surgeon who left a pair of forceps in a woman's abdomen after an operation here was sacked and fined nearly £100,000. Health Ministry sources in the United Arab Emirates reported.

Tortoise safe

Quito (Reuters) - Plans to airlift 600 giant tortoises away from a fire raging on the Galapagos Islands have been shelved because the danger to their colony has receded. Ecuadorian officials said here.

Airport chaos

Jakarta (AFP) - Chaos reigned at Jakarta's new airport at Cengkareng when it opened to handle all international and most domestic flights, reliable sources reported. Flights were delayed and missed, the sources said, because of wrong flight information.

Long-winded

Prague (AFP) - A Prague man faces five years in jail for making a five-and-a-half hour telephone call to his brother in Australia from an office he had broken into. Instead of dialling direct, he called the operator, who reported him.

Gas leak kills three at Bombay plant

Delhi (Reuters) - At least three people were killed when sulphur dioxide gas leaked from a small chemical factory in Bombay on Monday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said yesterday.

The report came after news that liquid chlorine had spilled last Thursday from the pesticide factory in Bhopal, central India, which leaked gas last December, killing at least 2,500 people in the world's worst industrial disaster.

Panic started in Bombay's industrial suburb of Thane after

the three people died there on Monday, PTI said.

It quoted factory inspectors as saying the accident occurred when the factory was carrying out trials with mineral oils and chemicals. The inspectors said two people injured by the leak were out of danger.

Indian newspapers reported earlier that at least three people became ill last week when further leaks occurred at the Bhopal plant and that hundreds of others living in a shantytown near by fled in panic.

Protest day over killings

Santiago (AFP) - Chilean trade union leaders have called for April 11 to be a day of nationwide demonstrations in protest at the murders of three opponents of the Chilean junta.

The three were the head of the Santiago section of the teachers' union Aged, a sociologist working for a human rights group and a retired draughtsman.

Aged and the Federation of University Students of Chile announced a nationwide teachers' strike for yesterday and doctors urged colleagues in hospitals to stop work.

"We want to know where these groups come from, who they are (now) and who is protecting them," Señor Manuel Bustos, a spokesman for the Chilean trade union leadership, said.

F16s in Japan

Tokyo - Three sleek, grey American F16 fighter-bombers landed at an air base in northern Japan, the first offensive American aircraft to be permanently stationed in Japan in 14 years.

Cyprus murder

Nicosia (AP) - A Libyan businessman and shipowner, Mr Ahmed al-Barrani, aged 35, was shot dead here by an Arab gunman who entered his office near the main square.

No more bull

Sydney (Reuters) - An insurance company paid out a record £58,000 compensation for a champion Australian stud bull which can no longer do what it did best. An accident "rendered him incapable of performing his services," the company said.

Bonn blocks farm deal

Luxembourg - The latest attempt to fix agricultural prices for the EEC's eight million farmers ground to a halt yesterday evening against an immovable West German block. Nothing now seems likely to move this before the crucial elections in North Rhine-Westphalia on May 12 (Ian Murray writes).

Most of yesterday's meeting in Luxembourg between agricultural ministers was devoted

to a series of "confessional" sessions between Signor Filippo Pandolfi, the Italian President of the Council, and individual ministers. He found Herr Ignaz Klechle, the West German Minister, quite unrepentant in his stand against the 3.6 per cent cut in cereal prices, which is the most important element in the price proposals.

There is a growing feeling that in the end the price package will have to be put to the vote to get a settlement.

by 1986, could grow explosively, particularly if the disease were to become established widely among heterosexuals.

Several pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, primarily American but with European competitors, are already engaged in a macabre race to develop more reliable kits and to win a larger share of the market, pursuing equally lucra-

tive, but longer-term, projects to develop therapies or vaccines. "It is partly a question of reputation," Mr Elkington said. The company proclaiming breakthrough would win great prestige as well as profits.

British scientists are working to develop reliable diagnostic tests, but National Health Service sources see little likelihood of commercial involvement.

Aids spawns multi-million industry

By Tony Samstag

The worldwide epidemic of

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Bulgaria looks West with trade short cuts

Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent, continues his examination of economic reform in Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary.

When fake bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label, manufactured in a Bulgarian distillery, started to appear in Britain last year the usual apocalyptic conclusions were drawn. Bulgaria, land of assassins-for-export and large-scale heroin trafficking, was at it again: trying to sap Western morale and pick up a few dollars in the process.

But the bottles also offer an insight into Bulgarian economic reform that is transforming the country from a simple, backward, agrarian country economy into a relatively successful exporter to Western markets.

Traditionally Bulgaria sold food to its neighbours - "strawberry jam, by appointment to the Kremlin", as one business analyst put it - and was heavily dependent on Soviet oil and raw materials. But since introducing reforms - piecemeal in the mid-60s, halted by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and accelerated in 1979 - it has started successfully to sell such products as fork-lift trucks and even computers.

In 1965 the share of machinery in total exports amounted to 24.3 per cent; by 1980 it had risen to 50.7 per cent. Food exports declined

from 48.5 per cent to 21.4 per cent over those 15 years.

The short cuts taken to penetrate Western markets and its use of mimicry rather than genuine innovation strangely recall Hong Kong in the 1950s. At that time Hong Kong gained a reputation in Britain of making cheap, poor quality but serviceable toys, light machinery and clothing.

Bulgaria, though it does not have the advantage of sweat-shop wages, is using similar techniques to gain foreign trading leverage while its reforms take root at home.

COMECON REFORM

Part 2

Bulgaria is now somewhere between Poland and Hungary in the reform spectrum. Like Poland, it has some resistance to reform, bureaucrats, the heavy-industry lobby, any sector that is more than usually dependent on Soviet supplies. Unlike Poland, it is not trying to uproot the central planning system at one heroic stroke. It is making a mark of success for a Communist country when the CBI starts to complain.

Like Hungary, it has recognized that the old Soviet-style planning system does not work. Unlike Hungary, it does not

shun the plan targets and does not discard the bureaucratic administrative machine. It merely streamlines and simplifies, tries to introduce the idea of incentives and to reduce the possibilities of distorting subsidies.

Factories now have a degree of freedom. Within realistic rather than needlessly restrictive limits, they can choose product lines and compete with each other. They can award bonuses and incentives to workers if factory income exceeds the previous year's.

The setting up of small businesses capable of responding to market needs at home and abroad is being encouraged by the Bulgarian Industrial Association, one of the main

reform lobbies. But in contrast to Poland and Hungary, private industrial enterprise is not encouraged, though agriculture is an exception - a quarter of production comes from private plots.

The reform would not be truly Bulgarian if it contained no punitive element. Inefficient factories are punished by having to borrow at high interest rates; poor-quality production is rewarded with lower prices. If implemented consistently - managers' complaints that carrots and sticks are often confused - this could prove one of the best tools in socialist economic reform during a transitional phase.

It is the changes in the foreign trade structure that are the

most remarkable aspect of the Bulgarian reform. There are four fundamental improvements: closer economic ties have been established between factories and their foreign trade representatives; foreign trade organizations and producers are now more accountable to the Treasury; foreign trade targets are both realistic and simple; and domestic prices of import and export commodities must be fixed on the basis of actual import and export prices.

The Bulgarian reform is still in its infancy (the biggest changes came in 1982, despite the early tinkering) but seems to be enjoying up growth rates - an average of 4.1 per cent over the past years, say Sofia

officials - and making some impact.

Among Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, it is probably Sofia's reforms that are the most acceptable to the new Soviet leadership: they do not challenge the first principles of Soviet planning; they do not funnel goods away from Moscow to the West; and they do not raise the threat of political and ideological reform riding in on the coat-tails of economic liberalization.

If Mr Gorbachev is looking for a mild reform that improves performance without challenging the vested interests of the apparatus, he could do worse than import the Bulgarian model.

Tomorrow: Hungary



Growing up with reform: Schoolchildren in a village in southern Bulgaria.

Bomb aimed at judge kills mother and twins

From Our Correspondent Rome

A woman aged 30, and her six-year-old twin sons were killed yesterday in an explosion aimed at Signor Carlo Palermo, deputy public prosecutor of Trapani in Sicily.

Signor Palermo, who was travelling in a bullet-proof car from his home to the court in Trapani, escaped with a bruised leg. His driver and four police officers in another car were injured when a car, packed with explosives, was detonated.

Signor Palermo said it was a miracle that he escaped. He said he had recently received a number of threats and was working on a case in which he had issued five arrest warrants, two for local businessmen accused of currency offences.

Signor Palermo, aged 37, volunteered to take up the Trapani post after the arrest of his predecessor, Signor Antonio Costa, on charges of collusion with the Mafia.

Before arriving in January Signor Palermo was in Trento in northern Italy, where he uncovered a two-way traffic of drugs from the Middle East to Europe and North America, and trafficking of arms and military hardware to other countries, including an attempted sale of Exocet missiles to Argentina during the Falklands War.

Among those arrested were former members of the Italian secret service and underground masonic lodge P2.

Five life sentences each for terrorists

Stuttgart (Reuters) - Two of West Germany's leading urban guerrillas were sentenced to multiple terms of life imprisonment yesterday for a series of murders in 1977.

Christian Klar, aged 32, and Brigitte Mohnhaupt, aged 34, members of the outlawed Red Army Faction, were found guilty of the murders of a federal prosecutor, Siegfried Buback, and a bank executive, Jürgen Ponto, and the kidnapping and murder of Hanns-Martin Schleyer, an employers' organization leader. They were also convicted of murdering six bodyguards in the attacks on Buback and Schleyer and attempting to kill a US Army general in a rocket attack in 1982.

Judge Klaus Knoke, of the Stuttgart Supreme Court, ordered them to serve five concurrent life terms plus 15 years each.

They were arrested in November 1982 after a group of mushroom-pickers stumbled on a cache of arms and coded documents in a wood near Frankfurt.

Brigitte Mohnhaupt was captured when she visited the spot and Christian Klar, unaware that police had laid bare the group's network of weapons dumps, was arrested five days later near Hamburg.

Klar was also convicted of the attempted murders of a Swiss border official and a motorist during a 1977 attempt to cross the Swiss-West German border by night.

Communists come to blows in Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's once feared Communist Party is splitting with the Madrid local party, still controlled by Señor Santiago Carrillo, the veteran former secretary-general, and the national leadership coming physically to blows over putting new locks on party premises.

An order by Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the present secretary-general, has already frozen the bank account of the Madrid party, but yesterday the pro-Carrillo Madrid leaders denounced a "violent assault" on their premises by what were called "secessionists groups".

The national leadership denied there had been an assault, but explained the new locks had to be put on because the Madrid

leaders had refused to hand over their keys to the premises.

Señor Carrillo only learnt that the account had been frozen when his aides were told by the bank manager.

The existence of two rival factions, each claiming to be the Partido Comunista de España now looks likely.

Señor Carrillo has already rejected contemptuously a 15-day period offered by Señor Iglesias to take back his public criticisms of how the party is run. The national leaders want extraordinary congresses held in the capital and Valencia, the two main strongholds of Señor Carrillo, at which the rank and file members will be asked to elect new local leaders.

Jaffna property seized

Colombo - The Sri Lankan Government yesterday decided that all property belonging to the Sinhalese in the northern Jaffna district, including the Naga Vihara, a Buddhist temple, should be vested in the Government and that the Ministry of Rehabilitation of Properties and Industries Authority (Repia) should rehabilitate

and repair damaged properties (Donovan Moldrich writes).

The Government said the takeover would be temporary. It would end when conditions in the area returned to normal.

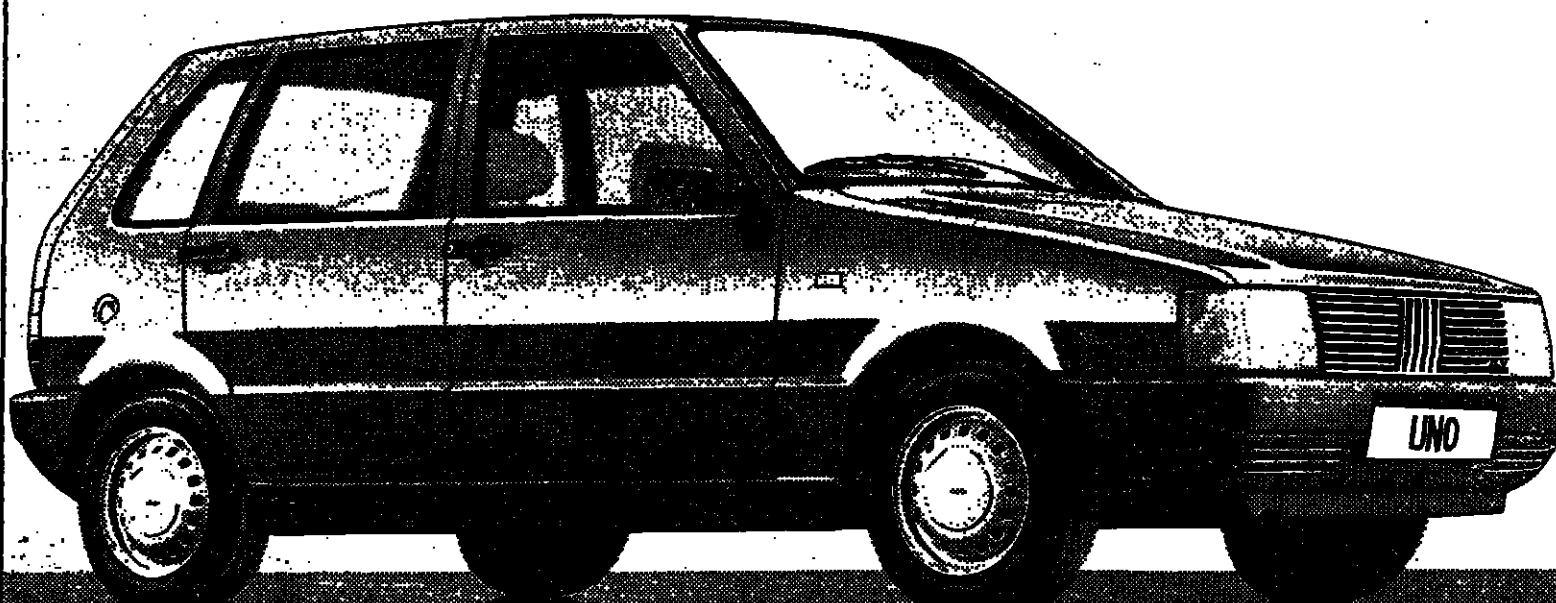
The last Sinhalese settlers left the Jaffna district last April when Tamil rebels attacked and damaged the Buddhist temple.

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CAR MAGAZINE (February 1985)



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Star Wars offer may prove difficult for Mulroney to refuse

From John Best, Ottawa

If Canada accepts President Reagan's invitation to participate in Star Wars research, it will be in spite of deep reservations held by the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney.

Recent statements by Mr Mulroney suggest that he has little use either for Star Wars research, officially known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or for Canada's involvement in it.

His strongest declaration came during a visit to his Manicouagan constituency, in Quebec, last week. He said that it was one thing for Canada and other Nato allies to support American research into the feasibility of a space-based defence system. "It is another, quite another, to be invited to participate actively in a project where you are not the big player, where you don't set the thrust and where you have no control over the parameters."

Mr Mulroney added, however, that Canada's decision will be taken "in the interests of Canada as a sovereign nation, a loyal ally and as a believer in freedom."

Previously, while making clear his own doubts about the wisdom of Star Wars, he had stated that the Government would look into possible involvement if it meant creating jobs in Canada.

The Government has obviously been placed in an uncomfortable position by the US invitation, issued to all Nato allies at a defence ministers' meeting last week in Luxembourg.

It was the second time in just over a week that the Americans had sprung a surprise on Mr Mulroney. In a speech at the bilateral summit in Quebec City on March 18, Mr Reagan startled the Canadians by raising the possibility of sharing technology related to the SDI.

The rapid United States raising of the stakes was particularly embarrassing to the External Affairs Minister, Mr Joe Clark, who not many weeks earlier had told the Commons categorically: "There is no plan, current, pending or anticipated that would have the Government of Canada involved in any way with the Strategic Defence Initiative."

The Government's official stand is that while research into space-based defence systems is "prudent," actual deployment would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Even this non-committal stand provoked a furious assault on the Government by the opposition Liberal and New Democratic parties, who want Canada unequivocally to renounce Star Wars as an escalation of the nuclear arms race.

Canada is always especially sensitive to such strategic issues, because its territory lies directly between the two superpowers.

GENEVA: Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, called yesterday for "worldwide policies of moderation and restraint" and urged the United States and the Soviet Union drastically to reduce nuclear arsenals and avert a space arms race (Alan McGregor writes).

He said the use of space for peaceful purposes must not be jeopardized. Both superpowers depended on surveillance satellites to ensure strategic stability. They had to continue abiding by the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty. Bonn had no doubt that "Star Wars" research was permissible under that treaty and was justified by Soviet research.

Herr Genscher, who later conferred with US and Soviet negotiators engaged in the bilateral nuclear arms control negotiations, said the statement by Chancellor Kohl and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, in Moscow on March 12 underlined "the community of responsibility in which both German states consider themselves to be linked" and served the cause of European stability.

Lord Chalfont, page 14

Search for murderer leads back to son

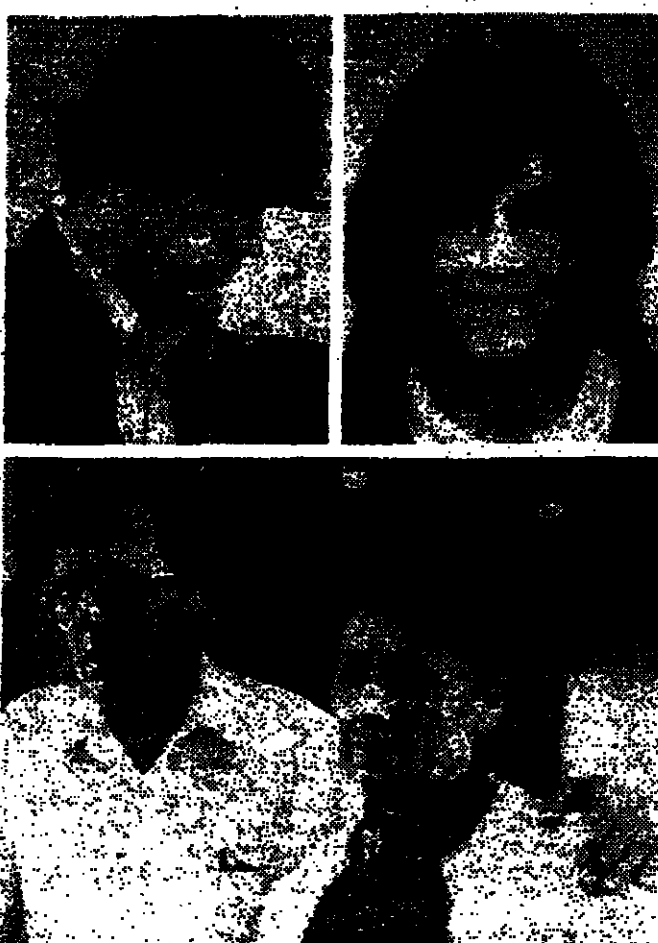
Streamwood, Illinois (AP) — Mr Donald Wright and his wife Delphine determined to find their daughter's murderer that they hired a private detective, never expecting that the trail would lead back into their own home.

Their adopted son, Mitchell, aged 18, is waiting to be sentenced on April 12.

Mrs Wright says she does not understand why Mitchell turned so viciously on Donnette, aged 16, first setting her up to be raped by a friend, though the rape never occurred, and then leaving her to die under a log on an abandoned milk farm near their home. He and James Wedrell pleaded guilty to kidnap and murder.

Donnette and Mitchell were two of four children adopted by the Wrights but it was not until eight months after Donnette's death that Mitchell became a suspect.

"If I faced the possibility of them coming out of jail and killing another girl and the death penalty, I'd pull the switch," Mrs Wright said.



Family tragedy: Mitchell Wright (left) murdered his sister Donnette (right) and was charged after adoptive parents Donald and Delphine hired a private detective

Hong Kong illegal entrants double

Hong Kong (AFP) — The number of would-be immigrants caught entering Hong Kong illegally from China more than doubled last year over 1983, Hong Kong police reported yesterday.

A total of 9,653 Chinese entered Hong Kong illegally in 1984, a 107 per cent increase, Mr Roy Henry, the Police Commissioner, said in the annual review.

Mr Henry said September had been the most popular month, when 1,342 "illegals" were caught.

Royal Hong Kong Police annual review

Papandreou claims £1m bribes were offered during poll

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Bribes of up to £1.2 million were offered to Socialist Party deputies to vote against Mr Christos Sartzetakis, the party's candidate in last week's secret parliamentary ballot to elect a president, the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, claimed yesterday.

He denounced the "rot at the top" for having tried to corrupt the country's parliamentary and democratic life. "One day we must make their names public,"

Government deputies he said had agreed to identifiable coloured ballot papers for each party and tight surveillance during voting "to protect their honour... I can guarantee that the two defectors did not belong to our party."

He said he intended to take advantage of the debate to amend the Constitution, which begins in Parliament today to propose further change: abolition of the secret ballot for presidential elections.

The New Democracy conservative opposition has condemned Government actions during the vote, and refuses to recognize Mr Sartzetakis, who was elected by the minimum 60 per cent majority of 180 votes on Friday.

By challenging the President's legality and demanding immediate elections, New Democracy was undermining itself and damaging the country's constitutional institutions. "Greece will carry on, even if this party

wants to put itself in the margin of public life", Mr Papandreou said.

He did not rule out a June election, but said this would be considered only after Parliament had completed procedures next month for amending the constitution. The next elections would be fair and honest, he said, with an unchanged voting system.

The Prime Minister appealed to the opposition to refrain from sowing discord, which only played "directly into the enemy's hands."

His reference was to Turkey, whose expansionism he described as the only visible threat to Greece. He would respond positively to Turkey's offer for dialogue, he said, only after Turkish troops left Cyprus, and on condition that Turkey does not question the legal status of the Aegean sea.

When Mr Ozel (the Turkish Prime Minister) offers olive branches, he should also offer something more concrete, he said. "We have plenty of olives in Greece."

Mr Papandreou said there was no threat to Greece from its communist neighbours to the north. He saw membership of Nato only as a safeguard in case of world war, but his government was pioneering world peace and disarmament. Greece would stay in the EEC to protect its rights.

Leading article, page 15

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China lays ground for Soviet links

From Mary Lee Peking

The sixth round of Sino-Soviet talks on normalization are due to begin in Moscow next week, but China's leaders recently reiterated that significant political differences remain.

They have, however, been busy laying the ground for better relations with Soviet bloc countries. Peking wants to improve trade with Eastern Europe in the hope that warmer political ties with Moscow's allies will follow.

The Chinese Premier, Mr Zhao Ziyang, last week said that the visit to China by the Polish Vice-Premier, Mr Janusz Obodowski, was an important event which raised Sino-Polish relations to a new height. Mr Zhao also praised the leadership of the Polish Prime Minister, General Jaruzelski, China attached great importance to, and would work hard for, friendship and cooperation between itself and Poland, he added.

The Chinese Communist Party sent congratulations to the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party congress for the first time in the 20 years since Sino-Soviet party relations were frozen.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, acknowledged improvement in the Sino-Soviet atmosphere where he told a visiting Japanese politician, Mr Susumu Nikaido, "it was a good sign" that the Soviet press had moderated its anti-Chinese stance (since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader).

Envoy sent home from Gambia

From Susan MacDonald Dakar

Senegal's ambassador to The Gambia, Mr Mbaye Ibrahima, has been recalled to Dakar at Banjul's request for ordering Senegalese troops to surround a Banjul stadium during a soccer match between the two countries.

The match was part of sports celebrations for the third anniversary of the Senegambia confederation on February 1. Witnesses said tension was high at the stadium and that the troops were called in to restore calm.

Senegalese troops have been stationed in The Gambia since 1981, after an attempted coup against President Dawda Jawara. The coup and Senegal's intervention gave rise to the confederation.

The continuing presence of Senegalese troops, now known as confederal forces, is justified under the confederation's security agreement. Their often high-handed attitude towards the Gambians, however, has caused resentment.

The confederation is also feeling the strain of prolonged negotiations on an economic and monetary union. Senegalese are saying openly that Gambia does not want the confederation and is deliberately dragging its feet. "The trouble with the Gambians is that they are so British," one Senegalese government official said.

The Gambians for their part have stated that they want economic union, but it must be a just agreement.

Litter floods Copenhagen as cleaners join strike

Copenhagen (AFP, AP) — Chaos continued in Denmark yesterday where demonstrations over the Government's new labour legislation virtually brought the country to a standstill on Monday.

The legislation on salaries and the length of the working day, adopted at the weekend, provoked widespread walkouts and mass rallies when it came into force on Monday.

According to the Labour Ministry, nearly 100,000 employees in the public and private sector were still on strike yesterday.

An estimated 1,000 factories and businesses were disrupted by strikers yesterday but the 4,000 employees at Danfoss, the country's biggest industrial group, were back at work.

Workers at the Carlsberg and Tuborg breweries in Copenhagen were still out. Debris from demonstrations littered Copenhagen streets as street cleaners joined in strikes. The Centre of the capital was left with broken beer bottles and discarded, rain-soaked posters from a large and sometimes violent demonstration on Monday outside Christiansborg Palace, the seat of Denmark's parliament. Street cleaners were also reported on strike in the cities of Arhus, Odense and Alborg.

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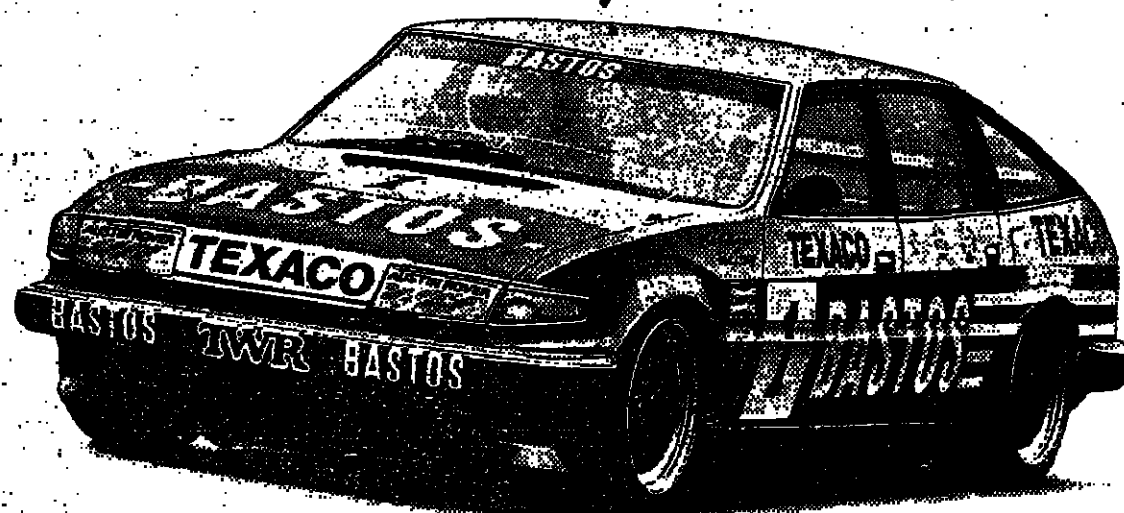
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Bank
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Ulster: By the school divided

Northern Ireland's most able pupils are high achievers at O and A level, yet a large proportion leave the province's schools with no qualifications at all. Richard Ford reports on the children for whom exams are not the only pressures

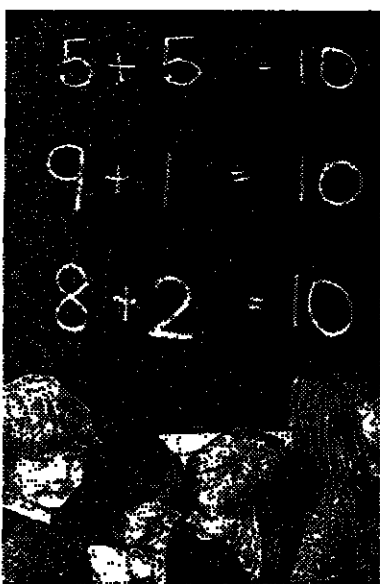
With their bombs and bullets, the terrorists in Northern Ireland have shattered the tranquillity of the classroom three times this year, bringing death and destruction to the school gates. Only cold weather, which had kept pupils inside instead of in the playground at lunchtime last week, saved youngsters from possible injury during the Provisional IRA bombing in West Belfast in which a soldier died.

The Provisional IRA's newspaper, *Republican News*, was quick to offer reassurance afterwards, saying: "Republican forces in Belfast made it clear that had there been any risk to adults or children in the nearby St Comgall's, the bomb would not have been detonated". It was hardly reassuring to the teachers already working in one of the United Kingdom's most deprived areas, and it brought unsought publicity to the province's education system, distorting the image under which it operates.

Most schools, primary and secondary, have worked in peace despite the civil disturbance. Those in the worst-troubled areas have provided stability and security as much around them as disintegration. One official said: "Teachers have quietly kept the show on the road, and it has been a great strength to the province over the last few years when circumstances have been far from easy. They have done quite gallant work which has been greatly undervalued."

Education has been a source of enormous pride in the province with frequent self-satisfaction at the greater emphasis placed on the traditional three Rs in primary schools, and at the quality of the ablest young people the North produces. This, along with arguments over segregated education and how children cope with the troubles, has tended to obscure a problem causing ministers serious concern: are the school curricula geared too much to selection at 11 and public examinations later, at the expense of the less able? Although O and A level results for the ablest compare favourably with England and Wales, the reverse is true for pupils leaving school with no qualifications.

The segregated education system both reflects and probably compounds the deep religious, political and cultural divisions that mark Northern Ireland. Often it is only when young people start further education or work that they have any real contact with those from across the sectarian divide. Critics say the system encourages division, though it is no different from that operating in denominational schools on the mainland. Developed to serve



The best days of their lives? Children at a Belfast junior school (left) and at nursery (centre); and later, learning about life the hard way in Londonderry

separate identities and because the churches on each side wish to influence and control their own schools, such segregation is hardly surprising in a province where geographical areas are often predominantly orange or green and housing, too, is frequently segregated.

Almost all Protestant children attend controlled schools funded

'Housing, too, is frequently segregated'

wholly by the state, while Roman Catholics go to the voluntary maintained schools where running costs are met by the state along with 85 per cent of capital expenditure, with the church providing the other 15 per cent. There are also voluntary grammar schools, again segregated on religious lines, which accept varying percentages of state finance. A report published eight years ago suggested that similar polarization occurred in the employment of teachers, with only 29 out of 1,521 secondary school teachers surveyed working in schools where religious affiliation was different to their own.

Inevitably the influence of the clergy has remained, along with the tendency of each side to project and protect their particular tradition, be it the Protestant, Unionist, British ethos or the Roman Catholic, nationalist, Irish. In the controlled sector the Union Jack flies from the flagpole, while across the divide



crucifixes and statues reflect the Roman Catholic ethos.

Dr Alex McEwan, of the Department of Education at Queen's University, Belfast, said: "The Catholic education system is the one major professional social institution which they own, control and populate. Its development has been a major achievement and any attempt to change the system is seen as an attack on their identity. Protestants look on the controlled sector with a similar proprietorial interest."

Just how strongly the Roman Catholic church will defend its interests was shown in 1982 during a government attempt to rationalize teacher-training facilities by merging two Roman Catholic colleges and transferring them to the site of a predominantly Protestant institution. The Government beat a hasty retreat after the proposals were denounced in a pastoral letter and a petition raised 294,000 signatures.

Government policy is still to encourage integrated education where there is a local demand and one school, Lagan College in Belfast, now has almost 300 pupils. But Mr Nicholas Scott, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Education, accepts that desegregation will take a long time. Though a recent survey found little contact between schools across the divide, co-operation does occur, particularly with the aid of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's community relations branch, which organizes inter-school quizzes, adventure weekends and discos. But like so much

community work it is kept discreet, for fear of putting either officer or teacher in a vulnerable position.

The survey also found concern at the effects of segregation and a desire for more cooperation, though here too teachers walked a minefield involving parents and politicians who fear political reasons for such moves.

Yet the differences are over-stated because once inside the schools, the pressure of examinations - selection at 11, GCE and CSE - makes for almost indistinguishable curricula. Obviously there are differences in religious education. But quietly and slowly change is occurring with an important review of the primary school curriculum. A system that prided itself on the three-Rs, with emphasis on mental mathematics, spelling, written and oral English and reading, was found to be satisfactory, but it was feared that the dominance of these topics was at the expense of a broader curriculum.

There is concern that selection at 11 has limited the development of curriculum. But 40 per cent of the province's primary schools have no more than three teachers, and this

too may have been a reason for the conservatism of the classroom. All schools have been encouraged to review their policies to give children the extra breadth, so that a subject like religious education can spill over into drama, English and project work.

The review has been supported overwhelmingly by nearly all the province's primary schools with the

'What young person with sense would stay?'

aim of developing greater self-confidence and practical skills among the pupils.

Religious teaching in secondary schools is also changing with the inclusion of elements of comparative religion and the relationship between religion and reality, humanity and tolerance. In history, too, the emphasis is on the inter-dependence of the British Isles with A-level pupils doing two questions on Irish history and two on British-Irish history, along with options that include Irish history from 1912 to 1973.

SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS 1981-1982

| | 3 or more A levels | 1-2 A levels | 5 or more O levels | 1-4 O levels | CSE or low grade O levels | No qualifications |
|---------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| NI | 12.0 | 10.3 | 18.6 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 24.2 |
| England | 8.7 | 7.4 | 10.1 | 26.7 | 36.5 | 10.6 |
| Wales | 7.1 | 8.2 | 10.5 | 27.1 | 27.8 | 19.3 |

Driven mad and round the bend

We have all heard of motorway madness, but I wonder as the Easter weekend approaches how many drivers have encountered rural lane madness? There are still a number of single-track country roads with only a few well-spaced passing places. On these I find that all motorists travelling towards me do so at colossal speed, skid to a halt just inches from my bumper, and then sit facing resolutely forwards, apparently unwilling or unable to drive backwards.

It is a waste of time to point to the generous passing place only yards behind the adversary; progress is best served by a willingness to reverse several hundred yards (and probably round a couple of blind bends.)

Just occasionally the other chap gets the message, but too late. He also sets off in reverse and so, instead of passing me, he merely manages to increase the distance between us. This can of course continue for several moves like an elaborate square dance: both cars back, both together, pause and back again.

Doubtless the folk who cause these highway hold-ups are exactly the same people who in town will cheerfully reverse up a one-way street to beat me to a vacant parking space. There is something sadly un-British about jumping the queue, but there is nothing foreign about these

E H Shepard



Too many Mr Toads?

urban space-invaders. Try challenging their kerbside manners. I guarantee their replies will be rich Anglo-Saxon.

There is, in fact, clearly a territorial instinct in the make-up of motorists. At home they will nail little No Parking and No Turning notices to their garden gates. (I can understand no parking, but why on earth should I not turn in their gateway?) At the wheel most drivers behave as if a driving licence bestows a divine right to road space.

There are, of course, special cases. I am the first to move aside for a blue flashing light. Doctor On Call seems a pretty fair reason for obstructing the traffic flow, and I am quite happy to suppose the doctor is making a sick visit, not a social one. The badge of the real megamachine, however, is the orange Disabled sticker, which appears to entitle the owner to disregard all parking restrictions and block any thoroughfare with impunity. Exasperated fellow-sufferers may like to know that there is a secret weapon. After a snakes-and-ladders journey along a country lane and fruitless search for a legal parking space, I recommend simply abandoning the car with its hazard warning lights blinking to signal: "I know I'm in the way, but I shan't be long."

Hide in a shop doorway and watch the traffic build up. It may drain the battery, but it does wonders for the blood pressure.

Nicola Bennetts

TOMORROW

The Times Profile:
The modern
English parish

Rodney Cowton

Britain aims for laser bonanza

Britain seems ideally placed to join with the Americans in their massive "Star Wars" research programme. Many of the country's major companies are working at the frontiers of defence technology and there is a close relationship between the two countries.

But British industry although anxious to take part is already suspicious. Will the United States really allow non-American companies to get involved in the high technology aspects of the programme? Or will it be like the Trident missile programme, in which the fruits of British tenders have been trivial?

Companies like Ferranti, Plessey, Marconi, and British Aerospace - who today publish the preliminary prospectus of the £600 million offer for sale of the Government's 48 per cent stake and a rights issue - are particularly well placed.

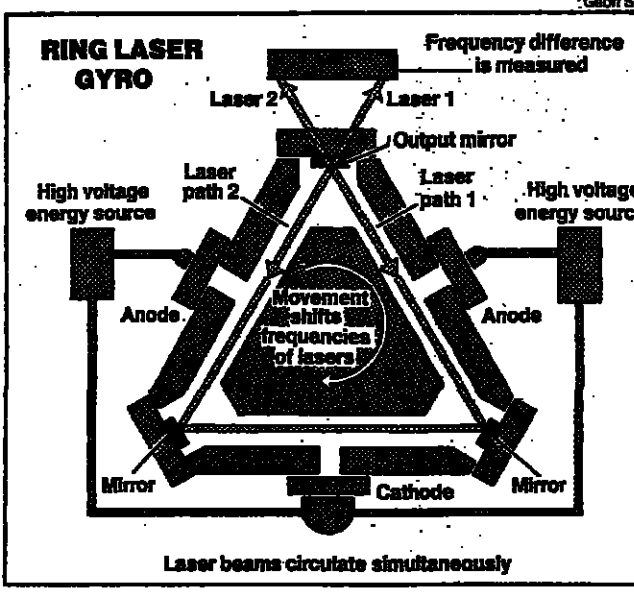
One area where there might be scope for involvement is that of laser gyros, in which British Aerospace claim to be world-leaders outside the United States. Already they have notified the British Government of a possible interest in the application of this technology to the "Star Wars" research.

Laser gyros are bidding to replace the spinning gyroscopes which for the last 60 years have been at the heart of navigational systems for aircraft, ships, submarines and missiles. They are also used in ships' stabilizer systems.

Basically a spinning gyroscope is a rotating wheel which is mounted in such a way that it is isolated from the effects of motions going on around it, and its axis continues to point in the same direction despite those motions.

Now British Aerospace believe this type of gyro may progressively be replaced by the laser gyro. It will cost about the same as the traditional spinning gyro, but it is claimed that maintenance costs will be one-tenth of the conventional gyro.

Work on laser gyros began in the mid-1970s, at what is now the Bracknell division of British Aerospace. In 1976 a fairly crude gyro was delivered to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Following some initial study contracts, the Ministry of Defence, in 1978, placed a contract to develop a navigation system based on the laser gyro for an aircraft to replace the Jaguar and the Harrier. This was delivered in



1981 and became the first European laser-based inertial navigation system. Financial support from the Ministry of Defence came to a halt when it was decided not to proceed with the Jaguar/Harrier replacement.

In the last five years British Aerospace say they have reduced the size of the system about one-third while doubling the level of accuracy. Their latest navigation system for combat aircraft will be delivered to the R.A.E. at Farnborough this spring, and it is hoped it will have its first flight during the autumn.

It is only in the last two or three months that the Ministry has renewed its support for the work, placing small contracts with both British Aerospace and Ferranti. When the current phase of work is complete about £20 million will have been invested, with about two-thirds of the cash coming from British Aerospace.

That investment may now be about to earn its first return. It is thought that British Aerospace's laser-based navigation system is likely to be selected for the new naval helicopter, the EH-101, which is being developed by Britain and Italy.

But after ten years of development work, even on their most sanguine estimates, British Aerospace do not expect to reach break-even point for another six or seven years. However, if they are right in believing that in the long-run the laser systems will progressively outstrip the spinning gyro, then this long wait for profits should ultimately be rewarded with an ample harvest.

Rodney Cowton

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 611)

ACROSS

- Abnormally averse (6)
- Sound harshly (6)
- Mildbank (Gallery) (4)
- Authorized (8)
- Cattle keeper (8)
- Officer's medal (1,1,1)
- US space centre (4,9)
- Suili (3)
- Highway indicator (4,4)
- German romantic composer (8)
- Transition (4)
- Dive (6)
- Reflecting surface (6)

DOWN

- Mince meat spread (4)
- Immediately (2,3,4)
- Traverse (5)
- Edge orange (5)
- Small cut (4)
- Influences (5)
- Interior style (5)
- Wilderness food (5)
- Church centres (5)
- Tough cotton fabric (5)
- Required by etiquette (2,7)
- Gresy (4)
- Divine (4)
- Surpass (5)
- Make speech (5)
- Tough cotton fabric (5)
- Decayed building (5)
- Aspersions (4)

SOLUTION TO No 610

ACROSS: 1 Far off 5 Huge 8 Octet 9 Rebound 11 Annulled 13 Less 15 Sir Robert Peel 17 Alms 18 Crepuscul 21 Develop 22 Stair 23 Cjpp 24 Entity

DOWN: 2 Act on 3 Out 4 Forte de frappe 5 Hobo 6 Gruyere 7 No man's land 10 Disclosure 12 Loat 14 Step 16 Removal 19 Trait 20 Slop 22 Sit

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

The children who would have died

Liz Hodgkinson reports on the scientific advances which mean sick and premature babies now have a good chance of survival

The first question mothers ask after giving birth is always: is the baby all right? In almost 90 per cent of cases these days, the answer will be a reassuring and unequivocal affirmative.

But what about the other 10 per cent? Until 15 years ago, babies who were born very prematurely, or whose organs refused to work as they should, had a very slim chance of being all right, if indeed they survived at all.

It cannot yet be guaranteed that no baby will grow up with a severe mental or physical handicap. But spectacular advances have been made in recent years. Ventilators now enable newborns with respiratory problems to start breathing normally, and sensitive equipment accurately measures the all-important blood oxygen levels. Brain damage can in many cases be averted, and babies born blind with congenital cataracts can have an operation to restore sight.

Heart defects can be spotted in utero, and certain severe urinary problems detected and treated before birth. Ten years ago, the survival rate of babies born weighing 2lbs 2oz or less was very low. Seventy per cent died shortly after birth, and of the survivors, 50 per cent grew up badly handicapped. Today, these figures have been reversed: Seventy per cent of babies with very low birth weight now survive, and if they reach a suitable unit in time, as few as 8 per cent may be handicapped.

Though the knowledge now exists to prevent many deaths,

the skills and equipment remain in very short supply. These "charities" are working hard to fund research, buy equipment and make facilities available, so that more babies can survive.

In a report to be published soon by the charity BLISS, Professor Osmond Reynolds, director of neonatal intensive care at University College Hospital, London, says up to 10 babies a week are being turned away from his hospital alone.

"There have been the most fantastic developments over the past 15 years," he says. "But as yet, very few units exist, and babies who could live are still dying. A new report published by the Maternity Services Advisory Committee recommends that all small hospitals should now do neonatal care. This is a blueprint for disaster, because these little hospitals have neither the staff nor the equipment to cope."

What Professor Reynolds does not add is that many of the advances have been made at his own unit. "By the beginning of 1966, we had a mechanical ventilator in use that would enable tiny babies to breathe. In the early days, not many babies survived, but now these ventilators have become a routine piece of equipment. Most babies do live."

The rate of very small babies being delivered alive is now increasing, and they have an ever-higher chance of survival outside the womb. My own research has centred on how to keep these very small, very ill babies alive and enable them to grow up without handicaps.

One of the main dangers confronting very immature babies is the risk of permanent brain damage. This cannot yet be entirely prevented, but damage can often be averted if blood oxygen is maintained at the correct levels. "If they are too low, irreversible brain damage sets in. We now know how to measure them and how to give oxygen without causing terrible trauma," Professor Reynolds says.

Initial monitoring used to be carried out by passing a catheter into the baby's arteries, but now surface sensors can do the job as well. The other once-intractable problem was feeding. In 1970 Dr Jonathan Shore developed an intravenous feeding system. Very feeble, ill babies cannot be fed by mouth because they have not developed the sucking reflex.

In 1978, another major advance occurred. Ultrasound techniques made it possible to get a good image of the brain. The small, portable machine tells whether the structure is normal, or whether cerebral haemorrhage has taken place. Haemorrhages can cause permanent retardation, so quick action is needed. "Sometimes haemorrhages clear up of their own accord," Professor Reynolds says. "Otherwise, we can correct the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels."

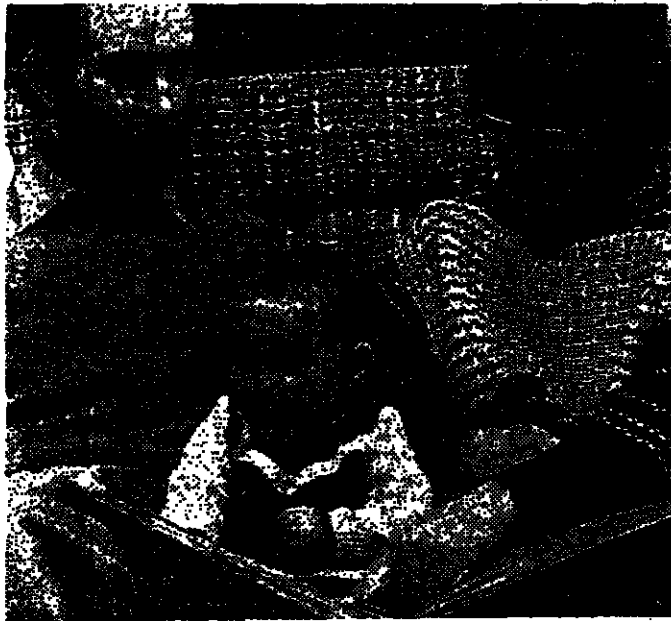
The latest British breakthrough - and many advances in this field have been British - is the nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. This instrument, which is large enough for the baby to go inside, indicates accurately the concentration of chemical substances within the cells.

"Our research here has been to develop non-invasive, non-traumatic methods of determining oxygen levels in ill babies, as this is by far the most crucial thing to get right."

Not so very long ago, babies born blind had little chance of ever being able to see. Now, thanks to work being done mainly at Great Ormond Street Hospital, even this can sometimes be changed. Ophthalmologist David Taylor, who has performed many successful operations on small, blind babies, says: "Since 1976, it has been possible to operate on babies with severe congenital cataracts. There is now a simple test to determine sight in the newborn baby. The operation has to be done as soon after birth as possible, because the brain as well as the eye must learn to see."

The big breakthrough here came when it was possible to fit very tiny babies with contact lenses, to replace the natural lenses removed by the operation. We now have a technical success rate of 98 per cent, and such children born blind will be able to go to ordinary schools, and lead completely normal lives.

Birthdate: 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1 7RG. BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems), 44/45 Museum Street, London WC1 0JL. 9393; Help a Child to See Institute of Child Health, 30 Grafton Street, London WC1.



The most precious gift of all

David Carrington-Porter went blind at the age of six, and his daughter Julia (above with her parents) was born with cataracts. At two months, she had an operation to remove them, at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Julia, now 16 months, can see perfectly well, and wears contact lenses.

Her mother Jane says: "We didn't know at first whether there was anything wrong, but because of David's blindness, we had her tested at once. Our local specialist said she probably had cataracts. We wanted another opinion; David Taylor saw her and operated immediately, on both eyes. Two weeks later, contact lenses were put in."

But for the operation, Julia would certainly have been blind all her life. Now we are doing everything we can to raise money to enable more children like Julia to be able to see."

"Our research here has been to develop non-invasive, non-traumatic methods of determining oxygen levels in ill babies, as this is by far the most crucial thing to get right."

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From bed-bound to outward bound

Marie Millett's four-year-old daughter Arabella (above) was a normal birthweight, 5lbs 10oz, and seemed perfect. However, she developed dangerous respiratory distress resulting in a collapsed lung. "In a district general hospital, she would have stood no chance at all," Marie says.

"But we were lucky. Within 36 hours, and after many frantic phone calls, we got her transferred to UCH, where she was kept in intensive care for a fortnight. She was born without surfactant in her lungs, and was ventilated for a week."

"Even when she was on the machine, it was by

no means plain sailing, as her lungs were improperly developed. She has had a lot of allergies and some growth problems, but is now completely normal." Arabella goes to Hill House, a tough, Outward Bound-type prep school in Kensington.

"Unless she was robust and normal, she wouldn't be able to attend this school," her mother says. "She is still being followed up, but we are not at all worried now. But she would definitely not have had the faintest chance of survival unless she had been rushed onto the machine."

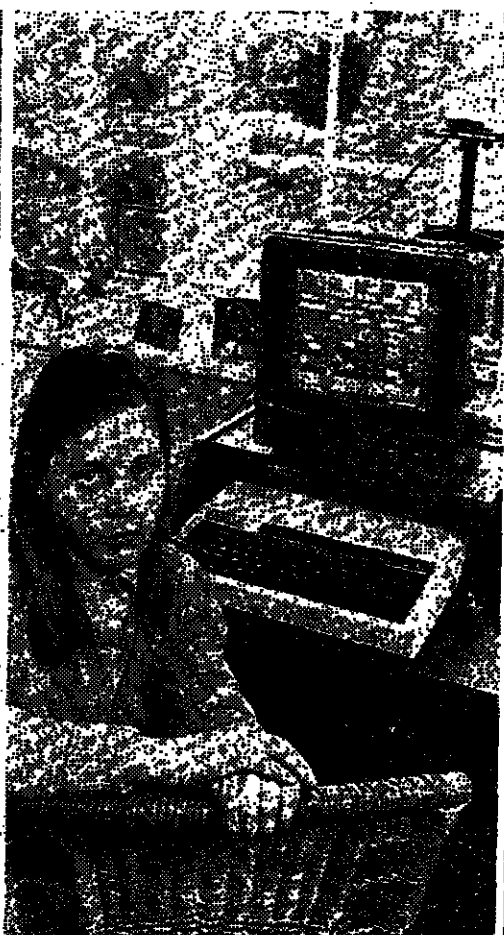


Saved by a ventilator

Karen Rose's son James, aged two (above) was 4lbs 11oz when born, and at first seemed to have no problems. "On the Apgar scale, which gives points for appearance, colour, breathing, he did very well," says Karen. "But very soon, respiratory difficulties developed, and he had severe jaundice."

"We were already at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and James was put straight into an enormous ventilator. I never expected him to come home at all. He was in the unit for a month altogether, and monitored closely until he was a year old. When he came home, we had to treat him as a newborn baby."

"Now, he is absolutely normal, and just like any other two-year-old. It's amazing that he is not retarded, either mentally or physically. In the past, babies often became blind when ventilated."



Happy and healthy

Sarah Tennant (above) is a happy, healthy 11-year-old, good at swimming and games. She owes her life to being ventilated when she was just half an hour old. For Sarah, who was born 14 weeks premature and weighed only 2lbs 14oz, had severe hyaline membrane disease, which means the inside of the lungs have not developed. Chances of survival are very low, without immediate treatment.

Margaret, Sarah's mother, says: "Sarah had to be transferred immediately to University College Hospital. She was the first baby ever to be put on to a ventilator, as far as I know. She had dangerous breathing difficulties, and we were told there was little chance she would live. She was in intensive care for three months. After coming home, she progressed normally. She was slightly late in walking and talking."

A taste of Easter through the ages



Shona Crawford Poole

In pre-frozen pea times, before fruit and vegetables joined the jet-set, the first edible green shoots of spring were enjoyed with special relish. Nettle soup, like Easter-lodge pudding made with nettle tops, bistort and barley, was eaten as a spring tonic.

The taste of raw sorrel is so fresh and sharp you can almost feel it doing you good. Sorrel, sometimes called sourgrass, is one of the "high tasted" herbs traditionally incorporated into the omelettes and frites of eggs which have always been made at this time of year.

Tansies are another old Easter dish. In the Middle Ages a tansy was a kind of green omelette which took its name from the bitter herb which flavoured it. By the 17th century they had evolved into creamy, sugar-strewn omelettes made with all sorts of leaves - strawberry, violet, succory and spinach - but not the bitter tansy plant. And a century later the greenstuff had all but disappeared from tansy recipes and fried apples or apricots, nutmeg and rosewater flavoured the eggs and cream.

Rebecca Price recorded five tansy recipes in her collection of 1681. The most detailed recipe, "A Tansy: Mrs Lord's Receipt," explains how the dish was cooked.

"Take 26 eggs leaving out 8 of the whites, beat them extremely well, put to them a grated nutmeg, a pound of lofe sugar finely beaten, a pint and a half of thick cream, and a great poutingfull of the juice of spinage with a little tansy stamped with it, mixe all these together with two spoonfulls of rose water then strayne it, grate not your nutmeg in till after you have strayed it, then put it into a skillett and set it over a gentle fire stirring it only once when it begins to thicken put into it a peece of butter as big as two wallnuts, then keepe it stirring till it be thicke enough to lye together, then put it into a dish that is very well buttered and putt it downe smooth in the dish with a spoon, then cover it close and set it over some gentle coales and so let it stand till you thinke it be hard enough, then turne it out upon a pye-plate and serve it with slices of lemons on it, this way of doing a tansy in a dish is much better than frying of them; you may do any tansy so if you please, this quantity will make a very large tansy, except it be for some great company halfe this quantity is enough for a good handsome tansy."

Cowslips and primroses were sometimes incorporated by the handful, into sweet spring tansies. We would not be so profligate now with wild flowers, but we might spare a primrose blossom or two to decorate an apple tansy for an Easter pudding.

Apple tansy
Serves six
680g (1½lb) crisp eating apples
55g (2oz) butter
4 eggs plus 2 yolks
55g (2oz) crushed boudoir biscuits or fine white bread-crumbs
55g (2oz) caster sugar
4 tablespoons double cream
Freshly grated nutmeg

Peel and core the apples and slice them in rings. Melt three-quarters of the butter in a large frying pan and cook the apples until they are tender and pale golden.

Beat together the eggs, yolks, crumbs, sugar and cream and add a little freshly grated nutmeg. Pour this mixture on to the apples, stir a little and cook on a low heat until the

underside is golden. Turn the tansy, using a plate, add the remaining butter to the pan and continue cooking gently until no liquid remains.

In texture the finished tansy comes somewhere between a cake and an omelette. It can be cooked in two stages, the fruit fried in advance then combined with the egg mixture for the final cooking which takes between 10 and 15 minutes.

Serve the tansy very hot with chilled cream or creamy yogurt and sugar.

Cream and fresh curd cheese are used lavishly in Easter recipes throughout Europe. In Naples a traditional sweet is a ricotta cheesecake flavoured with fresh and candied citrus peel and rich in eggs and sugar. But the best known soft cheese dish is Russia's pashka, a decorated pyramid of sweetened and flavoured cream dish which is served with slices of kulich, the tall loaves of enriched bread made for the festival.

This version of pashka comes from *The Food and Cooking of Russia* by Lesley Chamberlain (Penguin £3.95).

Pashka
Serves about ten
600g (1¼lb) curd cheese or curd and cream cheese in equal proportions
140g (5oz) butter
2 egg yolks
140g (5oz) caster sugar, or more to taste
2 tablespoons each chopped almonds and raisins
2 teaspoons lemon peel
3 drops vanilla essence

Pashka may be made up from raw ingredients and kept under a press for 24 hours, or it may be cooked very slowly for an hour in a bain-marie first. The longer method produces no noticeable difference in quality, Lesley Chamberlain says, so I have stuck to the simple way.

The cheese should be dry and smooth before you start. One way of getting rid of excess whey is to put it in a fine sieve suspended over a bowl with a plate over it and a heavy weight pressing down on the plate. Leave overnight in a cool, airy place before combining with the other ingredients. The butter should be softened so that it will blend in with a wooden spoon.

The traditional pashka mould was a pyramid-shaped wooden form with the imprint of the Orthodox cross on one of its faces and usually other decorations as well. The form was lined with muslin and the mixture packed inside. It was kept under the weight for at least 24 hours before it was unmoulded. In my experience there is very little surplus moisture to escape at this stage and a deep jelly mould, greased with butter, does perfectly well.

Pack the pashka in tightly, put a weight on top and refrigerate for a few hours. The sides may be decorated with slivers of almonds, glacé cherries and angelica, or left plain.

The loneliness of the long-distance 'flu victim

This should have been the article in which I chronicled the completion of a marathon. It was to have started along the following lines: "I finished in the first 10,000 places and achieved a personal best of four hours, 13 minutes and 23 seconds. Instead I am left with nothing but this sad, almost terminal form of words: I

caught the 'flu. It is, I admit, not so much an introduction as a rather dismal postscript to eight months of reasonably sincere training, the highest point of which was a 22-mile run in three hours and 45 minutes.

Now I know that seasoned regulars of the 26 miles, 385 yard course claim that the real race only starts in the last four miles; but I know also that virgin marathoners have no sense of competition with their fellow runners, only with themselves; mere completion is the goal. On either count, I am a failure.

It started last Tuesday... the 'flu. For a year I skated clear of all those viral nuisances to which the 'flu is heir: I poulticed the snowy verges of Richmond Park's perimeter road; hour-long runs on weekday mornings; and two-hour outings at the weekends.



until the full distance, once so implausible, had come within striking range.

Cynics will argue that in the endless debate between mind and body which rages in every runner, the much exploited body had finally won, that it had planned all along to crown eight months of grudging compliance by an all-out strike.

Three days before last Sunday's race around the streets of



Wolverhampton, I began to sweat and shake, in that order, and to feel that terrible sense of lassitude descending like a shawl. In fact, so similar were the symptoms that I could have been completing a marathon, rather than contemplating one.

I promise you I did not give up without a struggle. Right up until the Friday I was planning to do the race, if only to save face in this column. It was after my conversation with a doctor friend that the last traces of resolution drained away through the soles of my feet.

possibility of gearing up for another occasion. At least *Running* magazine is sympathetic, with its warnings to runners to drop out rather than compete in a less than fit condition.

So now I am browsing through its pages once more, this time in a search for fellow failures rather than in the spirit of athletic zeal. There they are - those revoltingly sneaky blobs and the glowing, gleaming women; the slit-high shorts, the flashy footwear, the digital watches, all paraphernalia of amateurs who think they're pros.

But what's this? A whole column of references to marathon articles in medical journals. Space does not permit a full list, but here's a taste: *Jogging to Death*, *Sudden Death in Runners*, *Fatal Collisions Between Joggers and Automobiles*, *Running Shock*, *Hazards of the Braless Jogger*, *Jogger's Testicle* and many more.

In search of solidarity I rang the organizers of the London Marathon, and struck the first good news of the week. Last year 21,142 runners enrolled. Only 16,992 started. Suddenly I realize that although I am in a minority, it is a sizeable one. My message to those 4,150 non-starters is this: I know the feeling.

Yes, it is profoundly frustrating to abort in this way, and to survey all that wasted labour, even though there is always the

Alan Franks

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THE TIMES DIARY

Staying price

The Hall Russell shipyard in Aberdeen is in danger of closure next year, to the embarrassment of Norman Tebbit and his junior minister Norman Lamont, because the Government seems unable to sell it. The Government, committed to privatizing the yard, is said to be expecting between £5 million and £7 million. According to my sources, however, only one offer believed to be £500,000 was lodged, and duly refused by the selling agents Lazards (director Sir John Nott) by the closing date for bids on February 15. The offer was placed by a consortium headed by Scott Lithgow's former MD Ross Belch. Mr Belch, who did not deny the figure yesterday, is to bid his offer on Thursday, but I am told his offer has only been increased by £250,000. The conditions attached to his "serious" bid, however, include terms which cannot be guaranteed at this stage. The yard which has no future MoD contracts, is working on its last order of a mooring vessel. Yesterday a government official said: "There is no question of its closure until that order is complete in 1986."

Borderline

I see from the chairman's report that The Friends of Covent Garden have £505,000 in cash deposits. Perhaps they should use some of it to pay for the odd geography lesson; in their 1985 programme of visits their house magazine lists under foreign tours, April: a long weekend in Glasgow.

With compliments

Labour MP Gerry Bermingham is desperate. In a letter to PHS he writes: "As a member of the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee attempting to investigate the Special Branch, I again learnt with great interest from your column the latest information on our deliberations. Given your proven ability to acquire supposedly confidential information perhaps it would be better if you took over our inquiry and, having completed your investigations, kindly, your recommendations to the committee prior to publication." For his information, latest intelligence reveals that a third report is now being drawn up by committee officials, the first two having been the dust. In addition, a pair of MPs have drawn up a further two unofficial reports, one overtly critical of the Special Branch and the other a "fudge" on the findings.

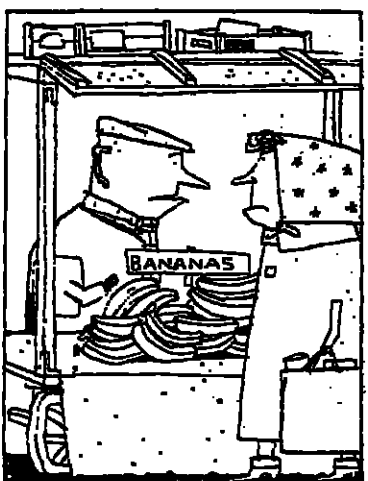
Holy prints

The hazards of newspaper reading: Saudi Arabia's daily *Saudi Gazette* has just warned that its pages are likely to contain the word "Allah" and verses from the Koran. "We caution you against trampling on them, packing your things with them or using them as a dine-spread at home, so as to be thrown finally into the garbage bin. You must avoid committing this sin."

Just the ticket

A year ago the BBC was scratching around for a way to mark the 50th anniversary of London Transport when producer Jonathan Gilly noticed my paragraph about Carl Davis's *Luridus on a Bus Route* based on the Number 31 bus. Duty inspired, Gilly's documentary, *To the World's End*, will be broadcast on Friday covering the bus routes from Kilburn to Notting Hill and backed by Davis's score.

BARRY FANTONI



'The bunches I don't sell I'm offering to the Government in lieu of tax'

Rustled

Peers are bracing themselves for the public reemergence of Earl Russell who, after a six-year absence from the Lords, has just taken the oath for this session. The last speech of the 63-year-old earl proved of such endearing dotiness that their lordships talk of it still. In a discursive survey of western government, Lord Russell urged the abolition of borsals, the restoration of the upper classes to "vogue and favour", houses to be given to girls at the age of 12, the substitution of Euro-communism for the EEC and the transformation of the police into the Salvation Army. "Naked bathing on beaches or in rivers ought to be universal," he added. He was stopped only when Lord Wells-Pestrell questioned whether his comments were directly relevant to the debate in hand, on victims of crime. Yesterday from his Penzance home, Lord Russell insisted he had addressed the motion: "I was talking about the state as the criminal." He plans to speak again soon. His subject? Abolishing the CIA.

PHS

Lessons of the Gallery fiasco

by Charles Knevitt

Like three knights in shining armour, the Sainsbury brothers have come to rescue Lord Annan and his trustees over the National Gallery extension in Trafalgar Square. Their gift to the nation - around £25 million, and the largest ever given to an arts project - is indeed as "remarkable and munificent" as described at yesterday's press conference.

The first attempt to raise funds from private donors was made five years ago after the Government made it clear that it could not give the gallery the additional space it desperately needs. Two approaches were made by the trustees who then included, locally, Sir John Sainsbury, a leading art patron as well as successful businessman.

Paying for the new space for 230 early Renaissance paintings, therefore became a matter for the third, and everyone thought final, option: commercial development of part of the site. The architectural competition demanded by Michael Heseltine, then Environment Secretary, produced three excellent schemes which combined the two aspects of the brief: one was by Ahrends, Burton & Koralek, the main losers of what turned out to be a three-year fiasco; the others Arup Associates, and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of Chicago.

The issue of whether art and commerce could ever be made to work side by side was the biggest red herring, though one eagerly ex-

ploited by trustees and critics when things started to go badly wrong.

The fact remains that Lord Annan and his director, Sir Michael Levey, disagreed with the three other assessors, headed by Sir Hugh Casson, over which scheme of the seven - and then three finalists - to choose. The gallery favoured SOM, the others ABK. In the end, ABK was appointed as the firm thought most likely to produce a satisfactory design to a modified brief.

That modified brief turned out to be the architects' undoing. Compromises were made to accommodate features from two other finalists' schemes, and the unhappy result was the plan with a tower, which went to public inquiry last spring. Patrick Jenkin, the new Environment Secretary, overturned his inspector's recommendation that the scheme be given planning permission once the tower had been removed. And that was the end of it. We discovered only yesterday. The gallery never spoke to Peter Ahrends again, even though Jenkin had invited a new scheme.

After the events of the past three years, yesterday's surprise announcement (although predicted in *The Times*) came as something of a welcome relief and new cause of optimism about the future of the

site, derelict for 40 years. Again there is an opportunity to build a world-class gallery - a proper arts centre, with other public facilities - on one of the most prestigious sites not only in Britain but the world.

An advisory team is to be set up and six architects chosen to be interviewed so that one may be selected to do the design. Another six years will have gone by, of course, before a new design is produced. It will then go through all the normal planning channels, probably including a public inquiry.

There is no doubt that the scheme will be dogged by controversy, as was William Wilkins's original competition design for the weak classical building which exists at present and the recent competition. Controversy and architecture go hand in hand, and that is not something to be feared or avoided.

The Prince of Wales's remarks about a "monstrous carbuncle" last spring made architecture an issue for legitimate public debate, something which should be welcomed by a profession more arrogant and defensive than most. But it is also very regrettable that he picked on Ahrends, Burton & Koralek - one of the top six firms in Britain today - as the target. As Sir Terence Conran told him, if he wanted to attack bad

architecture there are plenty of other guys around.

Two other lessons should be learnt from the debacle. The first is that a bad brief, and mid-stream changes to the brief, is no way to run a design competition. With hindsight it would have been better for the gallery to choose from a shortlist of architects, not buildings, as will now be the case. This method was used to select Norman Foster to design the BBC headquarters at Langham Place, Richard Rogers for Lloyd's in the City, and Jeremy Dixon and Building Design Partnership for the Royal Opera House extension in Covent Garden.

The other lesson is that the trustees might have been able to come to better decisions more quickly if they counted an architect amongst them, or as a retained adviser. The British Museum has Sir Denis Lasdun as a trustee, the Tate Gallery has Richard Rogers (the current chairman). Would things have got out of hand at the National Gallery if they had not been made up entirely from the world of art, business and academe?

Third time was unlucky for the National Gallery and the British public. One simply cannot imagine that the Sainsbury triumvirate would allow it to fall at the fourth. At least they can be confident that unlike all previous attempts this time everyone will be working towards the same objective. The author is *Architectural Correspondent of The Times*.

Alun Chalfont on Soviet efforts to have it both ways in space

Red Star Wars: the hidden facts

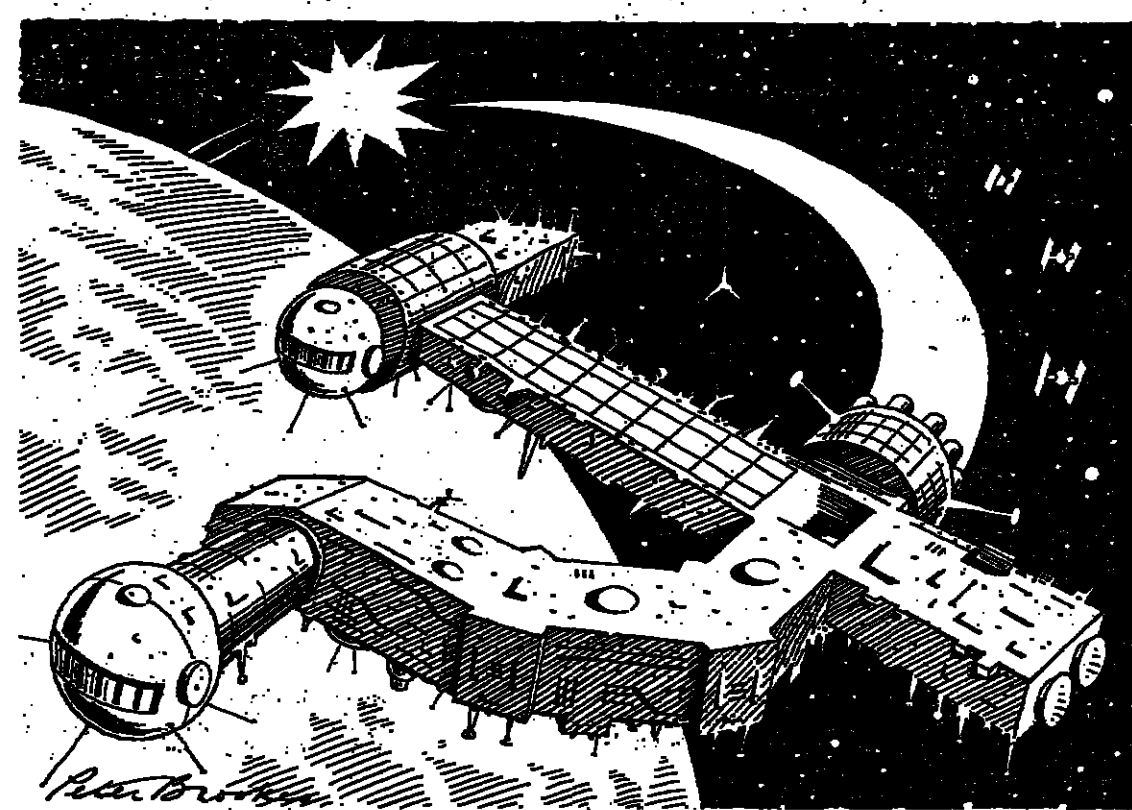
The Soviet Union, unlike the United States, does not advertise its strategic defence research. Indeed, if it were to do so it would be difficult at the same time to characterize the American programme as "dangerous, destabilizing and provocative".

In 1984, a working group of the Committee of Soviet Scientists for Peace Against the Nuclear Threat published a report which concluded that space-based systems are too expensive, technically unattainable and easily neutralized by counter-measures - arguments now at the heart of the campaign in the West against SDI. Yet in January this year Nikolai Basov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences announced in Moscow that the Soviet Union would have no technological difficulty in matching the American SDI programme.

It may be argued that the Soviet Union cannot really have it both ways. Either the SDI is dangerous, provocative and destabilizing, or it is useless, expensive and easily neutralized; either it is technologically unfeasible or it is well within the reach of Soviet military scientists.

On this last point the evidence of Nikolai Basov must be thought to carry some weight. Since he won the Nobel Prize in 1964 for his work in quantum electronics, he has been one of the driving forces behind the Soviet strategic defence programme.

Indeed, what appears to be a baffling contradiction in Soviet attitudes to strategic defence is easily explained if one simple proposition is accepted - namely that the Soviet Union has been engaged for many years on a secret programme of research into space-based defence, and that it now fears that it may be overtaken by a similar programme which has all the weight of western technology, industrial infrastructure and economic resources behind it. The principal area of technology on which much strategic defence research is concentrated is that known as "directed energy". This includes the laser, an intense beam of electromagnetic radiation aimed at a missile to penetrate its surface and damage its guidance system and warheads; the radio-frequency weapon, involving electromagnetic radiation at wavelengths similar to those of radar, designed to damage the electronic components and circuits of a missile; and particle beams, produced by a high energy accelerator, which can cause not only thermal or mechanical damage, but also secondary nuclear or X-ray effects deep inside the target missile. Soviet research into laser weapons began as early as the 1960s. It is



emphasized that their planning is based on the calculation that any war between Nato and the Warsaw Pact will inevitably escalate into a nuclear war, which it is their purpose to win. In any case, they know that effective defence is an essential ingredient of a credible deterrent.

For many years western intelligence reports have suggested that the Soviet Union is at least as well advanced as the US, and in some areas well ahead of it in laser technologies for military application. It already has a ground-based anti-satellite system (the only one in existence) and, according to some intelligence assessments, could have operational space-based systems before the end of the century. Although Russian research and development has tended to concentrate on laser technologies, impressive progress has also been made with particle beams. Research into nuclear accelerators has obvious applications in normal high-energy physics for peaceful purposes, but equally it has obvious military potential. Similarly, Russian expertise in microwave weapon technology is at least as great as that of the US.

None of this will come as a surprise to any serious student of Soviet strategy. The Soviet Union has never subscribed to the concept of Mutual Assured Destruction. Russian strategists have consistently

emphasized that their planning is based on the calculation that any war between Nato and the Warsaw Pact will inevitably escalate into a nuclear war, which it is their purpose to win. In any case, they know that effective defence is an essential ingredient of a credible deterrent.

It is for these reasons that the Russians have placed far more emphasis than any Nato government on civil defence; that they have protected Moscow with the only existing operational ballistic missile defence system and recently upgraded it; and that they have developed an orbital as well as a ground-based anti-satellite system. Furthermore, they have built large phased-array radar systems, which some western authorities believe to be in contravention of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and they have begun to deploy a surface-to-air missile system (the SA X12) which is capable of intercepting some types of western ballistic missiles.

It would have been surprising, therefore, if Soviet scientists and military planners had not carried out serious research into space-based strategic defence systems. They do not, of course, have the kind of political system in which this has to be the subject of a presidential announcement; nor, if it had been

announced, do they have the kind of press which would have been ready to produce "Star Wars" headlines and columns of hostile and derisive comment.

Those who suggest that the United States should abandon its strategic defence research programme in the interests of successful arms control negotiations might do well to ponder one significant aspect of the public debate. Within a month of President Reagan's SDI speech on March 23, 1983, a letter appeared in *The New York Times* attacking the initiative. It was signed by over 200 Soviet scientists - a powerful blast, one might have thought, against the whole idea of strategic defence.

What might have escaped general notice at the time was that many of the signatories including Basov and Prokhorov, have spent the professional lives designing Soviet strategic missile systems, military aircraft and nuclear submarines. The most interesting signature was that of Evgeny Velikhov, vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the leading figure in "Star Wars" research in the Soviet Union. Perhaps he should have declared an interest.

Lord Chalfont is chairman of the all-party defence committee in the House of Lords.

The iron hand politicians should clasp

Dhaka Look down from the air-conditioned comfort of the Seragone Hotel in Dhaka and a striking contrast meets the eye. The name of the hotel means "Golden Village". It is Japanese owned and is possibly the best hotel in South Asia. Just outside, though, on a muddy island in the middle of a muddy pool, the poor people live their life in public.

A rickety bridge links them to the busy street. Their tumble-down huts perch above the fever-green water, which serves them for drinking, washing, cooking and bathing. The standard of living of the vast majority of the 100 million people of Bangladesh is much nearer that of the pond people than of the Seragone's guests. Average income here is the third lowest in the world, after Bhutan and the Ivory Coast. The other evening an American journalist was embarrassed to find that his bill for dinner was much more than the average Bangladeshi's annual income.

The rickshaw puller earns about 5p a mile. The peasant barely survives on rice crops he must share with his landlord. And all the time the country suffers from natural calamity. Last year, floods covered much of the northern area, destroying crops, livestock and communications. This year a drought is withering the harvest and killing seedlings in the cracked and dusty fields.

Two weeks ago a freak tornado turned a river boat turtle, drowning 400 passengers. The rain that accompanied the tornado could have saved the harvest, were it not

for the preceding hail storm that flattened the standing crops.

Calamity is a way of life, but the population keeps on growing. Already it is the equivalent of the combined populations of Britain and France living in a land area smaller than England and Wales. Its density is as though the entire population of the world lived in the USA.

The military ruler of Bangladesh, General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, insisted recently that his country was not in the economic mess alleged by the Americans. All the same, a new report on its economic health is expected soon from the World Bank and IMF, and it is unlikely to be good.

The fear is that inflation is out of hand, that investment is falling, and that the government's income, largely from customs duty, is being imported as part of economic aid packages, is declining. Even the remnants sent back from Bangladeshis earning good money in the Gulf are declining as petroleum-supported economies weaken.

The country desperately needs a period of political stability to try to catch its economic breath. There are some signs of improvement. Agricultural production has risen 20 per cent in the past five years; huge

quantities of natural gas have been found in exploitable fields; a US-financed rural electrification scheme is helping dry-season irrigation. Political stability is ensured at present by General Ershad's martial law regime, and by his promise of a stable democracy to come. But there is an old saying that if you lock two people in a cell they will spend their time trying to escape, but if they are Bengalis they will simply argue about what to do once they are free.

So how stable any democracy will be is open to question. At the last presidential election there were 65 candidates, each with his own party. The only thing many of the parties agree on is the need to get rid of martial law, although many agree that as martial law regimes go, Ershad's has been remarkably mild.

Unlike Pakistan, there have been no executions. The coup that brought Ershad to power three years ago was bloodless, though political violence since has caused deaths on both sides.

Men with guns created Bangladesh from the rule of West Pakistan. Men with guns put a bloody end to the excesses of the founder of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was creating a Moslem-aligned one-party state. Men with guns saved the country from the chaos that followed his murder. Martial law was declared and General - later President - Zia ur-Rahman took command. Men with guns killed him, and martial law was declared a second time three years ago.

Now the army, seeing itself as the guardian of stability, wants its role

to be institutionalized in the constitution. The politicians do not relish the idea but may have to live with it for the soldiers are still in control.

General Ershad has made many offers to hold elections; each has been spurned by the opposition parties. They fear that he would be returned to power and that the army would have found a role.

But they were wrong to turn him down: some representative institutions are better than none. Even though the recent referendum was jaugally dishonest, a parliament can exert some control on even a determined and draconian military regime, as the Pakistan national assembly may yet prove.

Emboldened by the referendum, General Ershad will claim wrongly - that it showed immense support for him and his policies and will move to the final stage, sub-direct elections on a non-party basis.

The sub-direct, or upazila, system was created by the martial law regime to bring power closer to the people, and successful upazila elections would do much to cement the general's power in a way that the referendum failed to do. It would create a whole class of local politicians owing their position and patronage to the Ershad government and who could have something to fear if the old-style Dhaka politicians took power again.

The opposition should co-operate in the holding of elections or it could lose what grassroots support it now has.

Michael Hamlyn

Jack Straw

Words to haunt the CBI

Some people collect rare books; others collect salamanders. I collect files. Lovely, bulging, manilla ones. I fill them, nurture them, lay them down. I open them when their time has arrived. I did so this week with "CBI 79".

It was the sober warning of the present president of the CBI, Sir James Clesminson, that alerted me. "Continued decline," he wrote in the foreword of the CBI's just published *Change to Succeed*, "would mean social upheaval, increased bitterness, decay, even a move back towards the violence of earlier societies." Unless the "blight of unemployment" was removed, he continued, "the validity of the free enterprise system itself would be in question."

All of which is true, but not quite what the CBI was saying when the current economic experiment began six years ago. Continued accelerating decline, unemployment, decay, violence - they were all going to be things of the past. The future was bright, as the late Sir John Methven, then director general of the CBI, told his members and the nation in June 1979, in a letter which has been maturing in my filing cabinet DI.

"This... council fully supports the strategy and direction of the Budget. The CBI council therefore calls on all CBI member firms to ensure that [these] policies, which the CBI has long advocated and which are now being pursued by the Government, lead to higher productivity, higher living standards, more jobs, and a more successful economy, in the interests of the British people as a whole."

It is the closing paragraph of Sir John's letter, however, that makes my patient forbearance of my secretary's insults at my squirrel-like habits so rewarding. "If we fail in this new environment - when we are being given the sort of incentives we have asked for - we may never be believed again. We may never get such a chance again. And we shouldn't be surprised then if other, unpalatable alternative strategies gain more attention."

But the policies have failed. As another file ("Tory Disunity '85") reveals, the most withering criticism to date of the Howe/Lawson strategy - which the CBI so staunchly and unambiguously backed - has come not from past or future Tory leaders such as Heath or Walker, whose motives may be a little in doubt, but from the respected Conservative backbencher, Peter Tapsell, knighted on the Prime Minister's recommendation in the New Year's Honours List.

"Having produced disaster," he said in February, "mass unemployment, the lowest levels of investment of any industrialized country except Portugal, industrial output below that of six years ago, the first deficit in manufactured trade in British history, almost uniquely high real interest rates, and the lowest ever sterling exchange rates, with UK inflation still higher than in the US, Japan and West Germany, they proclaim success."

The only voice which proclaims success now is from that handful of ministers - Lawson, Tebbit and the Prime Minister - in whom economic power has been uniquely centralized. Even the CBI has in truth abandoned them, for their pronouncements show a hesitancy, a lack of confidence, an understanding

that their prescription has all but killed the patient.

Change to Succeed is all questions, very few answers. The wild, mendacious, breathtaking claims now falling from the lips of government ministers can each and everyone be refuted by the CBI's latest document. Thus, the Employment White Paper, (Annex 2, p 27, cmd: 9474, in case you think I have made it up), says:

"Since 1979, the long-term decline of Britain's economic performance has been halted and reversed."



Sir John Methven: 1979 hopes pinned on Thatcherism. Right, Sir James Clesminson: a 1985 warning of unemployment is brought down.

under the guidance and stimulus of clear and resolute government policies." The CBI, however, asserts that the decline in manufacturing's contribution relative to UK output "recently... has speeded up alarmingly. Between 1979 and 1983, manufacturing investment fell by 34 per cent, after allowing for inflation... and output is still 11 per cent below its 1979 level. The decline is far more pronounced than that in other countries." And why, asks the CBI, have not only the Japanese, the Germans, but also the French, "recently done so much better than the UK (even in the US market) at a time when the pound is so low against the dollar?"

There are other questions, too, which the CBI might have asked. Why, if the US economic recovery, as the Government asserts, has been a supply side phenomenon caused by an entrepreneurial free enterprise culture, has US manufacturing, according to the Department of Labor, now regained half the jobs it had lost earlier in the recession: why has the fastest improvement in unemployment been in the old, unionized industrial heart of the US, the East Central states (the equivalent of the West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire); how and when could this happen in the UK?

Why, if lower wage increases have been so crucial in the US recovery, were they also lower in the 1970s when unemployment in the US was higher than in Europe? Why, if demand - and the large deficit - has had nothing to do with the four million more jobs created in the US since 1982, did unemployment rise so dramatically between 1980 and 1982, when Reagan was pursuing the same tight fiscal policy so characteristic of the Thatcher administration?

Labour, like the CBI, has learnt a little from the last six years. We make no extravagant promises about our programme. We simply know that with a government as blind and deaf as this one, it would be impossible not to do better. The author is *Labour MP for Blackburn*.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Leaks? Toss 'em in the trolley

People with Very Unusual Jobs Indeed: No 21

A *Private Whitehall*. Photocopier Operator. Caroline Tisdall and Clive Pounting and all these so-called moles, says Dick. "I was caught because they copied their documents on an office copier, right? So I thought to myself, what Whitehall obviously needs is a copier that can't be traced. And then I thought, what they need is a bright bloke like me to provide them with what they haven't got - at a reasonable price."

So last autumn Dick hired a small photocopier, installed it on an old trolley that his mum didn't need and started walking the streets of Whitehall. His sign said "STREET COPIING. 10p A SHEET. CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEED". Business was pretty slow to begin with.

"I imagine any street vendor has a hard time at first, whether you're flogging ice cream, muffins or peanuts. First off, it was the odd tourist wanting to take a copy of his passport, or of a businessman who wanted copies of VAT invoices, but one day I had a civil servant who wanted a copy of some document to do with cuts in the navy or something, and after that I never looked back. Word obviously got round the departments and after that I could hardly cope with the work."

Where the documents come from, what they say and what happens to the copies afterwards is none of Dick's concern. As he says, what you don't know can't be a secret, and he is no more involved in the passing on of secrets than a postman, who delivers an illegal message can be party to it.

"I got the vague idea that a lot of it was intended for *The Guardian*. It's not a paper I know - I'm a *Sporting Life* man myself - but I'd go round to their offices one day to inquire about the possibility of a *Guardian* credit card. You know, moles would get a 10 per cent discount if they were genuine *Guardian* readers. But they weren't interested - kept going on about how I could only apply if I were a top-class restaurant. Give me a chance, I told them: I've only got a trolley at the moment."

To ensure complete secrecy Dick hires a different machine as often as possible, sometimes twice a week, so that it would be almost impossible to trace a copy. The moral aspect of his work is not something that troubles him overmuch.

"Supply and demand, squire; that's what concerns me. They need the stuff copied. I'm here to do it. Blamey, I'm one of Mrs Thatcher's wealth-creators, right? I've set up a small business, I've provided them with the ranks of the unemployed and I've paid me mum for the trolley. If that's not spreading wealth, I don't know what is. Maggie would be proud of me."

When faced with the idea that Mrs Thatcher would, in fact, disapprove of government secrets being leaked to the press, Dick is quite adamant.

"Then how do you explain the fact that her mates use me? I quite often hang around near Downing Street on Cabinet meeting days, and several Cabinet ministers have already rushed out and taken copies of highly secret-looking stuff."

"I'm not up on these things, but I always assumed they were acting on her orders. Mark you, the best pickings are often near Parliament, where MPs on select committees seem to need a hell of a lot of copying. No, no names. My customers' identity is safe with me."

The ironic thing is that although Dick is working, perhaps unconsciously, to circumvent the Official Secrets Act and indeed making a living out of it, he himself is as security-conscious as any Hestline man.

"Trust, that's the name of the game, mate. At this level of operation you've got to have trust in each other - if my customers thought I was going to grass on them, I wouldn't have any business left, would I? And now if you'll excuse me, I've got to move on. Here comes Old Bill."

Dick - though that is not his real name - now has so much business that he is seriously thinking of taking on extra staff. The Official Secrets Act, in other words, is creating employment. It is the one good thing we have heard about the Act in recent weeks.

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Director

Bogdanovich caught in Hollywood battle

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NOTES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Chancellor and Governor at odds over rates

Discreet and beyond the peripheral vision policy-watchers outside the City and Westminster, a substantial difference of opinion may be developing between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his advisers a few weeks after the Budget. The issue can be observed in the contrasting comments made by the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, on Monday.

In speech to the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr Lawson suggested that recession in interest rates had been "fully justified" by sterling's strong gains against other currencies. In short, the exchange rate of the pound is being targeted to influence the rate of British interest rates.

The underlying situation may be more complex. This may be one way of explaining why so far, Barclays and Lloyds have not followed the lead of the Bank of England in raising rates to 13 per cent. It would also explain why the Governor was noticeably cautious in his approach to rate cuts in the breezy Chancellor.

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Leigh-Pemberton, said in a speech to a Parliamentary Select Committee that the strong inflationary pressures existed within the economy. Thus a gradualist approach to interest rate cuts would be more appropriate.

It is possible to reconcile their words. Perhaps Mr Lawson was looking backward and condoning what had already taken place over rates, while the Governor was looking forward, and looking ahead. Against this background, the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin for March contains a fairly detailed article for the "exchange rate-early cut" policy approach. It deals with the using of the market, and takes up in detail the points made by the Governor last week.

Using international comparisons, the Bank's analysis concludes that there may still be considerable scope for an expansion in mortgage lending. They add that the new lending by the banks may pick up.

The problem with such an expansion in mortgage lending is that it threatens to pose severe problems of money market management, compounding as well the difficulties of hitting current monetary targets. Assuming bank lending rises sharply, then it must be offset by comparable funding, very roughly, for the British to remain within its self-imposed monetary targets. In other words, a move by the banks to compete with the building societies over mortgage lending entails a sharp rise in the real funding programme.

This perception explains why the gilt market was sluggish yesterday, and also why it is beginning yet again to attach great importance to the next set of money numbers for banking March, due out next week. The market is firmly convinced that the Governor's speech was intended as an early warning ahead of poor figures. Some analysts now forecast an increase in £M3 of 2 per cent. If correct any further moves to cut British interest rates might be concluded.

If the Chancellor's view prevails, and exchange rate targeting is now in vogue, then the market might equally be treated to the bizarre spectacle of watching the authorities trying to cut rates after very poor money supply figures, on the grounds that domestic credit expansion is not important.

The Lawson effect makes little impact

The "Lawson effect" was noticeably lacking in the money market yesterday. Money market rates opened firmer as the dollar continued to perk up but three-month interbank rate closed little changed

on the day at 13½-13¾ per cent. The sterling index slipped 0.3 to 76.9; the pound dipped 1.33 cents to \$1.2082 against a former dollar. Williams & Glyn's earned a few brownie points with a base rate reduction from 13.5 to 13 per cent.

If the Lawson effect was muted in the City, it barely registered at the Institute for Fiscal Studies' post-Budget conference. Professor Alan Budd, of the London Business School, tackled the question of why the economy has recovered without an apparent fiscal stimulation. The answer, of course, is that there has been a real fiscal stimulus within the framework of the medium term financial strategy.

This has occurred in two ways: first, because the targets of the MTFSS have not been adhered to; and secondly, the sharp fall in inflation between 1980 and the end of 1982 led to a relaxation of the real policy stance without any change in the nominal position.

John Kay, of the IFS, turned his attention to a comparison of the present Government's tax record with that of its predecessors. He revealed, can claim the record for having presided over the most marked period of tax-cutting in history. The only problem, as far as the present administration is concerned, is that it was achieved under the Heath government of 1970-74.

To give credit where it is due, the March 19 Budget was the fourth consecutive year in which the present Government had made the tax system more progressive, according to John Kay.

The Stock Exchange dilemma

The Stock Exchange was understandably embarrassed at the leaking of its recent letter to the Department of Trade and Industry, in which it asks both the DTI and the Bank of England to endorse publicly the Exchange's plans to introduce dual capacity in October next year.

Behind this seemingly innocuous request lie the increasingly shrill fears of a growing number of stockbrokers that an important part of their business will be lured away from them by outsiders, paradoxically because outsiders will not be bound, for another 18 months, by the stock market's regulations.

There is pressure from within the Exchange to hasten Big Bang Day in order to limit competitive damage from utterly respectable but worryingly powerful outside agencies, such as the American Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers, and the innovative merchant bank Robert Fleming, which has been making market in electronics shares. The danger if the changes are effected earlier, is that the necessary investor protection devices will not be in place in time.

The signs are that neither the DTI nor the Bank of England is disposed to leap into the declaratory roles urged on them. The Bank's timetable for the formation of the remodelled gilt market will probably be just slow enough to allow Stock Exchange members the formality of voting in their own changes before the Bank decides the names of those who are to participate in gilt trading in future. But the Government's hands are tied by the parliamentary timetable.

If warning were needed, Stanislas Yassukovich, chief executive of European Banking Company, weighed in yesterday with the view that "in the new, reformed City the pressure will make traditional self-regulation almost impossible. We then may end up with the worst of both worlds: a self-regulatory system which lacks credibility and an officially imposed structure which does not provide for total, clear enforced procedures". Quite; and rushing the fences out of blind fear will only make matters worse.

Bank trims S African stake

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered, the British international bank, is trimming its involvement in South Africa by not taking up a 17.4 million rand (1.1 million) rights issue by the South African subsidiary, Standard Bank Investment Corporation (Stanbic).

Standard Chartered's stake in Stanbic will fall to 50.3 per cent from 41.9 per cent. The decision not to take up the rights issue is not connected with the unrest in South Africa, but it does reflect

a conscious desire within the bank to reduce its dependency on the country.

South Africa has traditionally been the single biggest contributor to the banking group's earnings.

Senior executives concede that the South African involvement has affected the group's image and led to criticism.

The rights issue will also help to improve Standard Chartered's capital position.

Separately, the group also disclosed yesterday that Stan-

dard Chartered Merchant Bank raised pretax profits from £12.3 million to £21.3 million last year, but this largely reflected the inclusion of new subsidiaries and associates.

Mr Geoffrey Taylor, chief executive of Midland Bank, said in the annual report that earnings of the Californian subsidiary, Crocker, would be depressed as long as non-performing loans remained at high levels and there was the possibility of additional loan loss provisions.

Sedgwick in £540m merger with US insurance broker

By Richard Thomson

Sedgwick Group, Britain's largest insurance broker, yesterday announced a merger with the American brokers Fred S. James, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation, in a deal worth £540 million.

The merger will create the second largest insurance and reinsurance broking group in the world after Marsh & McLennan, the American group. In exchange for the James shares Transamerica, one of the largest insurance and financial services companies in the United States, will receive 39 per cent of the equity of the enlarged Sedgwick group, carrying 29 per cent of the votes.

The market value of the new group will be about £1.4 billion with estimated total worldwide revenue of more than £600 million.

The aim of the merger, to be completed by November this year at the latest, is to increase the geographical spread of both Sedgwick and James. Mr Carl Mosselmann, chairman of Sedgwick said: "For some years we have made clear our determination to add a new dimension to our business in North America as soon as the right opportunity presented itself."

The merger with James, with whom we have worked closely for many years, will meet this objective.

Mr Richard Page, chairman and chief executive of Fred S. James, said: "We are anxious at James to have as much international presence as our US competitors. Until now we have not had this." James had a wide client base among medium-sized American companies, he said, but the merger would enable it to attract more national and multinational American companies.

In return for all the common

stock of Fred S. James Transamerica is to receive 73,621 million new ordinary shares of 10p each and 68,373 million restricted voting "A" shares at 10p in Sedgwick Group. The arrangement gives Transamerica 29 per cent of the votes in the enlarged group. Mr Frank C. Herringer, executive vice-president Transamerica, did not rule out an eventual takeover of the group if the merger was successful.

He added that Transamerica, as a financial services company with widening international interests was keen to have a stake in Sedgwick. "We will show no gain or loss from the merger", Mr Herringer said. Transamerica bought James two years ago for \$300 million (£247 million).

Meanwhile, Mercury Securities placed its 29.3 per cent

holding, worth £37 million, in the insurance broker Stewart Wrightson on the stock market yesterday.

The shares were taken up on a substantial discount to the market value by a wide range of institutional investors at a price of 57.5p per share ex the proposed final dividend of 13.8p.

Mercury, the parent company of S. G. Warburg, said the disposal of its holding was part of its moves to form an integrated banking and securities group.

Meanwhile, Stewart Wrightson announced a 28.8 per cent increase in pretax profits for 1984 to £13.84 million from £10.74 million the year before.

The company gained £1.5 million from the rise in the dollar last year. Earnings per share rose from 29.53p to 38.13p.

Shamrock bids \$339m for farm business

By Alison Eadie

Shamrock Capital, a limited partnership owned 30 per cent by J Rothschild Holdings, 61 per cent by a company wholly owned by the Roy Disney family and 9 per cent by Transcontinental Services, has made an agreed \$339 million (£278 million) bid for the American agricultural business company, Central Soya.

J Rothschild, formerly Charterhouse, J Rothschild, announced an important change of strategy in January after the sale for £165 million of its 24.9 per cent stake in Hambro Life to BAT Industries, and the sale for £155 million of Charterhouse Japhet, the merchant bank to the Royal Bank of Scotland. Mr Jacob Rothschild, chairman of J Rothschild, wrote to shareholders explaining that future policy was to concentrate on financial services, leveraged buy-outs, investment holding, strategic investments and dealing.

The bid for Central Soya is the first major deal since the reshaping of the company into its more free-wheeling form. J Rothschild also holds a 31 per cent stake in Transcontinental, a British-quoted and American-based investment company.

The attraction of Central Soya is its high cash flow and relatively low risk. In the year to August 31, 1984, the company had sales of \$1.73 billion and revenue of \$22 million.

Shamrock is making a tender offer at \$24.25 per share for the 89 per cent of shares it does not already own. It also has an option to purchase a further 2.6 million shares or 18.4 per cent. J Rothschild, Transcontinental and Sir James Goldsmith's General Oriental Investment are the three British entrepreneurial investment vehicles of a similar nature to the Wall Street "raiders" and arbitrageurs like Boone Pickens, Carl Icahn and Ivan Boesky. Transcontinental will probably participate in the \$1.1 billion bid from General Oriental for Crown Zellerbach, the American forest products group.

P&O to sell 50% share in LPG fleet

P&O is to sell a 50 per cent interest in its loss-making liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) shipping business to Overseas Shipholding Group of New York, one of the world's leading bulk shipping operators, for \$33 million (£28.7 million).

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P&O's chairman, described the business as "a major problem area" for the group over many years. The company wrote off nearly £70 million of its investment in its LPG fleet last autumn and the deal with Overseas Shipholding provides what P&O hopes will be a final solution to the problem.

Sir Jeffrey said that by retaining a 50 per cent interest in the business, P&O would get some benefit if the market for LPG carriers eventually picked up.

BAT to auction off Mardon Packaging

By Cliff Feltham

BAT Industries is to auction off its Mardon packaging and printing business which employs 12,000 and had sales last year of £608 million. The proposed sale, which leaves BAT free to concentrate on tobacco, paper, retailing, and its newly-created fourth arm, financial services, could raise up to £200 million, according to some forecasts yesterday.

Mardon Packaging International takes in the manufacture of folding cartons and boxes, cans for pet foods, soft drink bottles, labels, cheques and calendars. A total of 7,000 of the workforce are employed at 49 plants throughout Britain with a further 2,000 in the United States and Canada.

Mardon was formed as a joint venture with Imperial Tobacco in 1962 and BAT acquired full control in 1979 for £87.8 million. Trading profits last year showed a 40 per cent improvement at £34 million.

Mr Patrick Sheehy, BAT chairman who stressed yesterday that he was in no hurry to sell, has been actively culling parts of the group which no longer fit in.

The sale of International Stores for £180 million and its cosmetics business for £125 million have gone some way to offsetting the huge outlay of



Sheehy: culling parts which do not fit in

£1.600 million on setting up a financial services division out of the acquisition of Hambro Life and Eagle Star.

"The job of finding a buyer for Mardon has gone to the merchant banker Lazard's. It was felt that BAT wanted to sell Mardon in one piece but might break it up if necessary. Likely buyers being tipped yesterday included Metal Box, DRG, Bowater, and Reed, but it was felt there might be objections on monopoly grounds in some areas - Mardon is the largest folding carton producer in Britain - and it was more likely an American buyer would emerge eventually."

£50m LMI offer rejected

By Jeremy Warner

London & Midland Industrial, Mr Bill Beddow's fast-growing engineering, to consumer products combine, launched an ambitious £50 million bid for Allied Textile Companies yesterday.

The attempt, which comes less than two months after LMI abandoned its £8.8 million offer for the hospital equipment group Hoskins & Horton, was condemned by Mr Russell Smith, Allied's chairman, as "wholly unwelcome".

Allied's interests include such names in worsted cloth as Moxon of Huddersfield and Reid & Taylor. Mr Beddow said these assets were not producing the kind of return shareholders should expect.

Another attraction was Allied's near £20 million cash mountain which would reduce LMI's gearing from more than 50 per cent to nothing. Mr Beddow said.

Allied has brought in the merchant bank S G Warburg to help with the defence.

LMI is making its 13-for-five share exchange bid from the platform of a 13.3 per cent stake in Allied, bought mainly from clients of Henry Ansbacher. The offer has been partially underwritten for cash by Morgan Grenfell.

IN BRIEF
Reserves up \$259m

Britain's official gold and foreign currency reserves rose by an underlying \$259 million (£214 million) last month, as the Bank of England took advantage of the pound's strength to recoup some of its January and February intervention.

The rise was the biggest since May 1981. However, it was accompanied by a \$1,825 million reduction in the actual value of the reserves as a result of the annual revaluation of the figures.

The total fell from \$15,353 million at the end of February to \$13,528 million at the end of March, its lowest since July 1977.

Pearson rises

Pearson is to pay a final dividend of 11p, making a total of 17p for 1984, after pretax profits rose from £77.4 million to £99.4 million.

Tempus, page 21

Art booms

Booming demand in the international art market helped the fine art auctioneers Christies International and Sotheby's to record years in 1984. Sotheby's increased sales from £336 million to £477 million and Christies sales rose by 43 per cent to £373 million. As a private company, Sotheby's gives no other financial information; Christies, however, reported pretax profits of £17.3 million against £9.7 million.

Tempus, page 21

Metal Box is paying \$40 million (£33 million) for the private American security printing group Clarke Checks, of San Antonio, Texas. Existing borrowings will finance purchase of Clark.

Wider Empire

Empire Stores (Bradford), the mail order company, has increased pretax profits from £1.5 million to £3.1 million for the year to January. Sales rose from £153.6 million. A final dividend of 2p makes 2.5p for the year against 1.25p last time.

Tempus, page 21

Profit record

Coates Brothers are paying a final dividend of 3.2p, making a total of 4.6p (3.8p), after pretax profits increased by 36.7 per cent to a record £12.3 million for 1984.

Tempus, page 21

PEARSON
Results in Brief

| | 1984 | 1983 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Turnover (excluding banking and investment income) | £843.2m | £730.4m |
| Profit before interest | £110.0m | £88.5m |
| Profit before taxation | £99.4m | £77.4m |
| Profit after taxation and minority interests | £54.1m | £41.9m |
| Earnings per ordinary share | 57.8p | 45.1p |
| Dividends per ordinary share | 17.0p | 14.0p |

Dividend

The directors recommend a final ordinary dividend of 11p net per share, payable on 31 May 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 26 April 1985.

Report and Accounts
The 1984 report and accounts of Pearson plc will be posted to shareholders on 10 April 1985.

Annual General Meeting
The annual general meeting will be held at Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1 on 3 May 1985 at 12 noon.



PEARSON

Information and Entertainment Engineering Merchant Banking Fine China Oil and Oil Services

Pearson plc, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QQ

The figures for the year ended 31 December 1984 have been extracted from the full financial statements to be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report.

Blue Circle in 119m US deal

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's largest cement group, yesterday announced significant expansion plans for America. It agreed with Newmont Mining Corp. the US mining natural resources company to buy Atlantic Cement Inc for \$119 million (£19 million).

Atlantic, with assets of \$129 million, staged a \$11 million buyback last year, moving from \$7.6 million loss to \$3.5 million profit.

Mr Hugh Bull, Blue Circle's vice director, said: "This makes us a considerable stake in the US, giving us a safety of nearly 4% million a year."

Blue Circle is expected to reduce pretax profits of £115 million for the year ending last month, against £109.5 million last time, when it reports a month.

MARKET SUMMARY

| STOCK MARKETS | MAIN PRICE CHANGES | CURRENCIES |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| FT Ind Ord. 989.4 (+5.6) | RISES: | London: |
| FT-A All Share (-) | Allied Textile 570 +137 | £ \$1.2082 (-0.0133) |
| FT Govt Securities 30.86 (-0.09) | Xylyx 15 +3 | £ DM 3.8042 (+0.0002) |
| FT-SE 100 1,286.8 (+8.5) | Syntrials 9 +1 | £ Sfr 3.2150 (+0.0002) |
| Bargains: 1,286.8 (+8.5) | Halford Grp 114 +13 | £ FFf 11.5100 (+0.0050) |
| Dataseam USM 113.84 (+0.14) | Amciffe 45 +5 | £ Yen 307.10 (-1.30) |
| New York | Jardine Sec 113.5 (+12.2) | £ Index: 76.9 (-0.3) |
| Dow Jones 1274.73 (+1.98) | Carpets Int 59 +6 | New York: |
| Tokyo | Metramet 52 +5 | £ \$1.2080 |
| Nikkei Dow 12829.86 (-47.29) | Arian Elec 53 +5 | £ DM 3.1500 |
| Hong Kong | Hugh Mackay 82 +8 | £ Index: 148.0 (+1.4) |
| Hang Seng 1408.36 (+41.29) | Bolton Tex 22 +2 | ECU: £0.587250 |
| Amsterdam 204.4 (+1.8) | Bryson Oil 127 +10 | SDR: £0.803595 |
| Sydney: AQ 829.9 (+0.4) | FALLS: | |
| Frankfurt | Rearson Smith Ord 17 -7 | |
| Commerzbank 1m195.0 (+11.8) | Rearson Smith "A" 10 -2 | |
| Brussels | Sumit 46 -6 | |
| General 261.48 (+11.79) | Security Cen 125 -15 | |
| Paris: CAC 213.3 (+1.8) | BSE Int 23 -2 | |
| Zurich: | Paramet 10 -1 | |
| SKA General 339.20 (+1.7) | Memory Comp 10 -1 | |
| GOLD: | Robert Lowe 21 -2 | |
| London fixing: | Esselte 230K -22K | |
| am \$317.00pm \$318.75 | SCUSA 97 -9 | |
| close \$318.75-\$319.50 (2263.00-2263.75) | Humberstone Elec 11 -1 | |
| New York | Sedgwick 373 -13 | |
| Comex (June) \$319.85 | Stewart Wrightson 598 -13 | |

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Tricentral seeks identity of buyer as share stake changes hands

By Derek Pain

Takeovers - real and rumoured - yesterday enlivened a dull stock market struggling in the dead embrace of a three-week account.

In quiet trading four takeover chestnuts dominated the action. They were:

Tricentral, down 2p at 236p after 240p, on continuing talk that Enterprise Oil, one of the Government's privatization exercise, will launch a bid.

The market remains intrigued by the near 5 per cent Tricentral shareholding held until yesterday by Alroy and Smithers, the jobbers. The stake has now gone to clients of James Capel, last broker.

Tricentral, last night fired off a letter to Capel seeking the identity of its clients. There was nobody at the broker who was prepared to comment.

Debenhams, up 8p to 224p, on a variety of suggestions including a bid from Harris Queensway in conjunction with Heron Corporation and the possible self-off of its profitable Welbeck Finance group.

A brokers' lunch generate a good two-way business and the shares closed only 2p below their best level for a year.

Commercial Union, up 9p to 215p, on talk that the loss-making insurance group will attract a bid today from the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance group.

Ocean Transport and Trading, unchanged at 189p after 190p, on continuing speculation of a bid. The P & O shipping

group is still regarded as a likely candidate.

Yesterday, John Swire, the Far Eastern group, said it had no plans to bid for OTT.

Although trading was spasmodic, equities did, for the first time since this tortuous three-week account got underway, manage to move ahead.

The FT 30 share index rose 5.6 points to 969.4 points and

Note the strength of chemical group, Horace Cory. The shares climbed 5p to 53p peak at one time as the market grew excited about the full year's figures, due soon. It looks as though profits will, for the first time, top the 20 million mark against only £307,000 last time and a best ever £591,000 achieved eight years ago.

The more broadly based FTSE share index advanced to 1,286.8 points, up 8.5 points.

Gifts had a quiet day, suffering falls of up 2p. The continuing refusal of Midland Bank and Barclays Bank to follow their high street rivals and reduce their base rates was an inhibiting factor.

Beecham Group rose 2p to 368p as the powerful American Food and Drug Administration approved the marketing of Timentin, an injectable antibiotic.

General Electric Co., which has finished buying its own shares at least for the time being, slipped 2p to 182p on

rumours of a broker profit downgrading. Rael Electronics was also lowered, by 4p to 206p for the same reason. Thorn EMJ after a broker lunch, slipped 2p to 407p.

Cable & Wireless gained 13p to 515p, as its possible fibre optic deal China created interest.

On the - real - bid front, the Pacific Companies kept 17p to 570p on the surprise offer from London and Midland Industrials. Bannor, which has collected a higher offer from CH Industrials, jumped 23p to 113p. The bid, which prices Bannor at £6.2 million and about £13 million, has been rejected.

CH has 10.2 per cent of Bannor and the promise of a further 13 per cent if a higher offer does not materialize.

Following Motor Group held at 169p after the Kuwait Investment Office disclosed it now held almost 23 per cent of the equity.

In breweries both Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, the bidder, and Matthew Brown, the target, edged higher. But Greenall, Whitely, weak lately, eased a further 1p to 166p.

East Midlands Allied Press "A" shares held firm at 125p after suggestions of a 150p-a-share takeover bid. Any successful predator would need the consent of the Winifrey family which shows it controls more than a quarter of the shares but is believed capable of mustering a much higher level of support.

Likely predators include the Australian John Fairfax group (Spectator owners), American publishers McGraw Hill and the

Glynwed, the engineering group, now has 28.9 per cent of the Reglan property concern, unchanged at 8 1/2 p, and Prudential Assurance owns 5.2 per cent of Hanson trust, up 2p to 210p.

British Aerospace, with the Government sell-off programme getting into full swing today, gained 10p to 433p.

Mr Brian Feawick-Smith, who has various Continental business interests, as for the second day, running increased his shareholding in little United Spring & Steel which made £275,000 profit in 1984, after three years of losses. The Feawick-Smith share stake, about 7.4 per cent for some time, is now more than 10 per cent. USSW shares rose 1/2 p to 20p.

Manor National Group, the troubled garage group, returned at 10 1/2 p. Its proposed merger with C. D. Bramall, up 2p to 143p has been halted although talks continue.

Mail order shares were encouraged by the postal return to work at the Mount Pleasant centre in London. Freemans hardened 6p to 204p and Empire Stores rose 4p to 102p. Gratias gained 4p to 174p.

Eastern Produce, the plantation group, rose 10p to 393p on its 83 per cent profits advance. James Finlay, the international merchant, gained 5p to 146p on rumours that John Swire and Sons is about to sell its shareholding and Access Satellite gained 10p to 248p.

Stratix Times, the English speaking Far East daily owned by Singapore Press Holdings.

At 150p, EMPA is valued at £90 million and commands exit price earnings ratio of 20. At that price the group looks fully valued. But potential bidders are tempted by the lucrative magazine section which has Just 17 and Smash Hits in its stables.

EMAP ruled off the books last weekend and should show in June whether it will match market pretax profit forecasts of £6.4 million, against £4.74 million last time.

Oils were firm, with British Petroleum up 12p to 550p. New London Oil, Monday's newcomer, reached 213p before selling unchanged on the day at 208p.

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TEMPUS

Pearson profits point to end of difficult phase

Pearson's recovery strategy probably stemmed from a single perception - quality of earnings. Any group with Lazard Brothers, Royal Doulton, Madame Tussaud's, and the Financial Times occupies a fairly up-market niche in the different sectors where it operates. Such allocation points to high margins, and good cash flows, leaving the bulk of the group's divisions self-financing in terms of working capital requirements.

Management was possibly the weak link in the Pearson set-up and the group appears to have recognized this, tacitly during the last few years by making a series of successful hirings, notably in publishing, and engineering.

A 28 per cent improvement in pretax profits to £99.4 million is proof that the group is nearing the end of the tricky phase of its evolving identity.

A 13p jump in the shares to 715p implies some market surprise at the scale of improvement, even after adjusting for the 54 1/2 million however means that Pearson is still rated as a gentle player in the conglomerates game.

The snap purchase of Thomson's publishing imprints, the fashionable issue of a £47.4 million zero coupon bond and the group's apparent refusal to bid for stockbrokers during the musical chairs of the City revolution, suggests that the balance of emphasis in Pearson's strategy is becoming more expansionist and concentrating on the information and entertainment division. Expected deals in the £50-£100 million bracket shortly.

Whether this boosts the rating up to BRT/Hanson Trust levels in the mid-teens is the next inponderable. In the meantime, 1985 might generate £120 million pretax, making the target multiple about 11.

SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES: With regard to the immediate prospects, the difficult situation in fertilizer business is still with the company. This points to the need to increase fertilizer business is still with the company. This points to the need to increase fertilizer selling prices, the chairman, Mr B Appleton told the annual meeting. Other aspects of the company's business look more robust he added.

PIKE (HOLDINGS): Sheel Thompson and Co has sold its entire holding of 302,185 ordinary shares (10.9 per cent). These shares were placed with institutional clients.

ACORN COMPUTER: The rights issue of 151,607,322 new ordinary shares has closed. Acceptances have been received regarding 150,646,715 new ordinary shares (99.37 per cent).

STOCKHOLDERS INVESTMENT TRUST: British Steel Corporation Pension Fund has interest in 17,550,000 ordinary shares (22.08 per cent).

BLADEN INDUSTRIES: Offer for sale of 14.95 million ordinary shares has been about eight times oversubscribed by 42,340 valid applications in respect of a total of 118.46 million shares. 472 valid applications were received on pink preferential forms from eligible shareholders for a total of 4.45 million shares and these have been allocated in full.

EWART NEW NORTHERN: Townmill Properties has sold its holding of 45,450 ordinary shares (5.79 per cent). Mr T. G. Wilnot has acquired a further 12,500 ordinary shares, bringing his holding to 67,950 shares. He has bought 35,000 ordinary shares in the name of Harvard Securities Pension Fund of which he is the sole beneficial owner. These holdings amount to 100,500 ordinary shares (12.8 per cent).

DUFAV BITUMASTIC: Results for the year to December 31, 1984. Dividend 0.8p including 1.8p. (Figures in £000). Sales 17,752 (15,339). Trading profit 1,044 (1,084). Depreciation 298 (332).

second time in Christies' history. This should be maintained this year when the benefit of a doubling of sales and storage space in New York comes through.

An additional benefit in the 1984 figures was the sale of old masters from the Chatsworth collection. It raised £21 million, way ahead of even the most optimistic expectations. Clearly it will not be repeated this year, but it has generated substantial interest in Christies from potential vendors.

Profits were also helped by an increase in the percentage of lots sold in the sales. Some recent sales have actually seen all lots sold which brings substantial benefits to margins.

Christies is a good, solid cash-generating business. It could make £19 million this year and the dividend increase, up from 8.5p to 11p for the year, suggests confidence from the management about the future. The shares closed up 7p to 603p and should be held.

Coates Brothers weighed in with 1984 profits about £1 million ahead of expectations at £12.3 million. But the real story is not so much the outcome to the year's trading - a new record - but rather how the group progresses henceforth, given the complicated relationship between the family holding and the balance sheet.

Coates, established more than a century ago, is strong in world ink and resin markets, and thus a perfect case of a British niche business. Return on capital is 16 per cent, and a long-term policy of graduate recruitment has left the group with strong well-motivated management.

The drive to expand has pushed gearing to around 36 per cent, and the figure is still higher, if the ultra-cautious £2.7 million restructuring of reserves is added back. Coates is renegeing some reserves ahead of possible difficulties in unspecified world markets.

The accounting treatment is less important than its symbolic significance. More than ever, Coates is keen to build up its American presence and move out of trucker markets.

A £40 million-plus rights issue looks the next step, but this could entail enfranchisement of the non-voting A shares, a move which senior members of the Coates family, who have guided the group in the past, are thought to dislike out of group loyalty. But such loyalty ultimately may work to the detriment of Coates if it precludes access to capital markets.

It is time for the Coates managers to sit down with the family to devise a capital strategy for the future. Perhaps a convertible, with a blocking clause against unwelcome bids, might encourage the old guard to surrender voting control.

Continued attention to bad debts and a more efficient cost base will help profits. Combined with an increase in sales, Empire could double pretax

Traded option highlights

Commercial Union was by far the most active constituent of the traded option market yesterday.

As the bid rumours swirled there were 1,854 contracts - 1,439 of them calls. The option had a good day with 142 calls and 96 puts.

All told the market enjoyed 5,011 deals - 3,442 calls and 1,569 puts.

COMPANY NEWS

BERKELEY EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION: Results for the year to December 31, 1984. No dividend. (Figures in £000). Turnover £727 (72). Administrative and operational expenses 2,761 (172). Profit on ordinary activities before tax 1,440 (409 loss). Tax 2,263 (50). Minority interest 488 (49). Earnings per share 3.3p (4.1p loss).
BENROSE CORPORATION: Final results for 1984. Dividend 1p making 5.4p (11p). (Figures in £000). Turnover £2,487 (45,901). Change in finished goods and in work in progress 67 (276).

Operational expenses 51,494 (42,375). Operational profit 1,060 (3,802). Pretax profit 152 (3,208). Dividend 1.5p (2.5p). Tax 738 (547). Extraordinary charges 233 (nil). Loss per ordinary share 5.19p (earnings 23.0p).
VECTIS STONE GROUP: Results for 1984 (15 months). Dividend 1.5p making 2.2p. (Figures in £000). Group sales 30,237 (39,158). Pretax profit 862 (1,025). Being materials and services for building and civil engineering 717 (782). Tolerances lost 46 (loss 83). Fuel distribution 225 (236). Hotel

and catering 113 (111). Vehicle distribution loss 59 (profit 24). Tax 332 (431). Earnings per share 3.67p (4.27p).
MAGNOLIA GROUP (MOULDERIES): Final results for 1984. Final Div 2.0p (1.9p), making 2.6p (2.5p). Figs in £000. Turnover 11,652 (10,167). Profit, before exceptional item, 756 (654). Exceptional item 115 (nil) referred to the interim statement in respect of the maximum loss which could arise as a result of two customers being unable to meet their obligations in full. Pretax profit 641 (644). Tax 243 (credit 4). EPS 6.97p (11.51p).
MANSON FINANCE TRUST: Results for six months to December 31, 1984. Interim dividend 0.62p (0.5p). (Figures in £000). Group profit before tax 644 (404). Tax 22 (160). Minorities 3 (8). Earnings per ordinary share 1.2p (1.1p).
CITY OF ABERDEEN LAND: Results for six months to December 31, 1984. (Figures in £000). Turnover £487 (8,663). Pretax profit 619 (130). Tax 217 (32). Earnings per share 21.7p (5.2p).
ARNCLIFFE HOLDINGS: Div. 0.1p for year to Oct 31, (2.66p). Figs in £000. Turnover 5,548 (5,274). Pretax profit 387 (profit 400).
EARLYS OF WITNEY: Results for 1984. Final 1p (1p), making 1.315p (same). Turnover £8.74 million (£8.06 million). Profit, before tax, £1,503,638 (£3,333).
BERKELEY AND HAY HILL INVESTMENTS: No div. for 1984. Figs in £000. Turnover 2,712 (1,094). Pretax loss 192 (loss 307).
BRITANNIA SECURITY GROUP: Half-year to Dec 31, compared with previous year. Interim Div. 0.5p. Figs in £000. Sales 1,601 (2,704). Pretax profit 22 (357).
WESTMINSTER AND COUNTY PROPERTIES: Interim div. 3p (2.75p). Figs in £000. Group turnover 1,928 (1,597) for six months to Oct 31. Pretax profit 163 (275).
SECOND MARKET INVESTMENT: Proposes to raise about £6.4 million after expenses by way of a rights issue to holders of ordinary shares, on basis of two new ordinary for every one existing ordinary, of up to 60 million new shares at 11p per share.
WELBECK (CONNOLLY) HOLDINGS: Final 2p (1.6p) making 3p (2.475p) for 1984. (Figures in £000). Turnover 76,777 (62,504). Pretax profit 1,833 (1,329) including related company 248. Tax (5268). Earnings per share 20.7p (18.1p).
LAMBERT HOWARTH GROUP: Final 4.25p (4.25p)

making 5.75p (5.75p) on increased capital for 1984 proposed one for five scrip. (Figures in £000). Turnover 7,387 (6,879) for six months to February 3. Pretax profit 60 (79 loss) after financing charges 274 (291). Tax nil (nil). Earnings per share undiluted 0.26pp (1.12p loss), and fully diluted 0.41p (0.76p loss).
SILVERA GROUP: Year to Nov 30. Div 1.25p (1.15p), making 2.05p (1.9p). (Figures in £000). Turnover 12,853 (11,692). Pretax profit 1,068 (772).
BRITOL: is to drill its first well of the 9th round licence awards. The company has been able to proceed so rapidly on this well because it had undertaken full seismic surveys and prospect evaluation before submission of the company's bid for the block.
GOLD AND METAL BASE MINES: Western Scotland has bought 56,250 shares and now holds a total of 2,573,250 shares (44.77 per cent).
ERNEST JONES JEWELLER: Provident Mutual Life Assurance has increased its shareholding to 605,000 ordinary shares (6.5 per cent). These shares are held as follows: Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, 512,500 shares; Provident Mutual nominees 92,500 shares.
BLADEN INDUSTRIES: Offer for sale of 14.95 million ordinary shares has been about eight times oversubscribed by 42,340 valid applications in respect of a total of 118.46 million shares. 472 valid applications were received on pink preferential forms from eligible shareholders for a total of 4.45 million shares and these have been allocated in full.
EWART NEW NORTHERN: Townmill Properties has sold its holding of 45,450 ordinary shares (5.79 per cent). Mr T. G. Wilnot has acquired a further 12,500 ordinary shares, bringing his holding to 67,950 shares. He has bought 35,000 ordinary shares in the name of Harvard Securities Pension Fund of which he is the sole beneficial owner. These holdings amount to 100,500 ordinary shares (12.8 per cent).
DUFAV BITUMASTIC: Results for the year to December 31, 1984. Dividend 0.8p including 1.8p. (Figures in £000). Sales 17,752 (15,339). Trading profit 1,044 (1,084). Depreciation 298 (332).

Interest paid 240 (184). Profit before tax 506 (568). Tax 197 (239). Minorities credit 25 (credit 9). Extraordinary credit nil (6). Profit attributable 334 (332). Earnings per share based on profit after tax and minority interests 2.03p (2.20p).
SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES: With regard to the immediate prospects, the difficult situation in fertilizer business is still with the company. This points to the need to increase fertilizer business is still with the company. This points to the need to increase fertilizer selling prices, the chairman, Mr B Appleton told the annual meeting. Other aspects of the company's business look more robust he added.

PIKE (HOLDINGS): Sheel Thompson and Co has sold its entire holding of 302,185 ordinary shares (10.9 per cent). These shares were placed with institutional clients.

ACORN COMPUTER: The rights issue of 151,607,322 new ordinary shares has closed. Acceptances have been received regarding 150,646,715 new ordinary shares (99.37 per cent).

STOCKHOLDERS INVESTMENT TRUST: British Steel Corporation Pension Fund has interest in 17,550,000 ordinary shares (22.08 per cent).

BLADEN INDUSTRIES: Offer for sale of 14.95 million ordinary shares has been about eight times oversubscribed by 42,340 valid applications in respect of a total of 118.46 million shares. 472 valid applications were received on pink preferential forms from eligible shareholders for a total of 4.45 million shares and these have been allocated in full.

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Base Rate

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 2nd April 1985 its Base Rate for advances is reduced from 13 1/2% to 13% per annum.

Williams & Glyn's Bank plc
A member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 144th Annual General Meeting of United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution will be held at United Kingdom House, Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday, 29th May 1985, at 11.15am, for the following purposes:-

- To consider the documents comprised within the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1984.
- To re-elect the following directors who retire by rotation, in accordance with Rule 8.0:-
Mr. W. M. Clarke,
The Rt. Hon. Dr. J. Dickson Mabon,
Mr. J. A. de Havilland.
- To elect the following director who has been appointed since the last Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 8.0:-
Mr. N. H. McLean
- To re-appoint Messrs. Deloitte Haskins & Sells as the auditors to the Institution and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Board
S. V. Finn
Deputy General Manager (Property & Security)
27th March 1985

Evered Holdings plc

AUDITED FINAL RESULTS YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1984.

| | 1984 £000 | 1983 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sales | 63,351 | 12,837 |
| Operating profit | 4,636 | 810 |
| Interest payable (net) | 1,193 | 201 |
| Profit before taxation | 3,443 | 609 |
| Taxation | 1,084 | 25 |
| Profit after taxation | 2,359 | 584 |
| Minority interests | 10 | — |
| Preference dividends | 5 | 14 |
| Net attributable earnings | 2,344 | 570 |
| Ordinary dividends | 560 | 44 |
| Extraordinary items | — | 53 |
| Retained profit for the year | 1,784 | 473 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | 12.2p | 6.5p |
| Dividend per ordinary share | 2.3p | 0.5p |

No justification for curbs, says Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

With anti-Japanese trade legislation in the United States becoming a real possibility, a senior Japanese government official said last night there was no justification for the Senate's tone of "retaliation" over telecommunications business.

Telecommunications trade, which was liberalized from Monday, has become symbolic of all trade problems between the US and Japan which range from cars to timber.

"There is no telecommunications market which is as open (outside the US) ... and I really don't know why the notion of retaliation applies," said Mr. Michinori Kunihiro, director-general of the Economic Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Kunihiro was speaking in an attempt to head off American legislation which would set up a system of tariffs and quotas against Japanese goods and which could pass the Senate by the end of this week.

Two senior US representatives, Mr. Gaston Sigur, a member of the National Security Council who specializes in Japan, and Mr. Lionel Omer, Under-secretary of Commerce for international trade, were in Japan at the weekend trying to gain last-minute concessions before the privatization of the Japanese telephone company.

The principal American complaints have been over the certification of equipment to be used in the Japanese market and "transparency" of regulations.

The Americans were also concerned that the experts carrying out type testing of foreign equipment for the Japanese market were all employed by Japanese telecommunications manufacturers.

Mr. Kunihiro said that from April 1, testers had been obliged to sign a pledge that they would use neither money nor instructions from the firms that employed them in the past.

Why scientific research can improve value for money

How far does Britain's expenditure on scientific research represent a genuine investment to bring economic growth and to what extent is it simply consumer expenditure that the country cannot afford? In this article, Sir Douglas Hague, chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, examines ways in which the link between science and industrial innovation can be strengthened

During the recent Oxford debate over Mrs Thatcher's honorary degree, Professor Denis Noble is reported as saying that scientists were extremely alarmed and deeply worried about what was happening. He went on: "This may be the last chance for any serious academic institution to stop the catastrophe that we face as a scientific and educational nation."

This is fighting talk, but let me offer in return not rhetoric, but analysis.

All who fund British science as taxpayers - individual or corporate - are continually told that money spent on science represents an excellent investment, but that Britain does not adequately back that excellence. In particular, it is often pointed out that other developed countries - the United States, Germany, France and Japan - spend a larger proportion of their gross domestic product on scientific research than we do. Even when one allows for the complication that much of this research is military, there still seems to be a significant difference between Britain and the others.

The first step in throwing light on this is to distinguish between science as investment and science as consumption. Some expenditure on science clearly represents an investment for society: it produces better-trained men and women, or discoveries which industry can use to produce new products or exploit new markets.

The rest of science represents consumer expenditure. It may

provide the material for books on the sub-structure of the atom or on the beginning of the universe. Such books undoubtedly give pleasure and illumination but this kind of science has cultural, not economic, benefits. It is the scientific equivalent of an opera at Covent Garden or a symphony at the Free Trade Hall. We wish to spend money on it but the criteria should be the cultural ones we apply to the Arts Council, not the business criteria of ICI or GEC.

Admittedly, some science as consumption may have spin-offs in the form of better-trained scientists, new products or new equipment, but we must guard against the natural temptation to exaggerate the significance and extent of these.

Cutting across this is the fact that, by its very nature, only a proportion of scientific research can hope to succeed in producing new knowledge or discoveries. One is reminded of the apocryphal remark (usually attributed to Lord Leverhulme) "Half of any business's expenditure on marketing is wasted: the problem is one doesn't know which half". A proportion of scientific expenditure is bound to be wasted in a similar sense, but this should not itself prevent spending on science. Provided the expenditure is not wilfully or unnecessarily wasted, one has to accept that a part of it (in this case perhaps more than half) will produce no direct result.

This throws light on the international comparisons. I have discovered in studying other parts of public expenditure that such comparisons usually tell us most when we relate public expenditure to real income per head. As the standard of living in a developed industrial country rises, that country devotes a higher proportion of its income to current government expenditure on goods and services. This trend is stronger in Western Europe than in the US and Japan, but everywhere it is obviously only a temporary phenomenon; otherwise government expenditure would in the end take the whole of GDP.

The advantage of looking at public spending in this way is that it begins to distinguish cause from effect. Part of the difference between the British and, say, the American standard of living is caused by higher American expenditure on science and by America's ability to exploit its scientific discoveries commercially. This is science as investment bringing economic growth.

But, in countries with a higher standard of living than Britain, part of expenditure on science represents consumer expenditure which is the result, not the cause, of that higher standard of living. My worry is that as with government activity in general, Britain is trying to take more science as consumption than our standard of living can safely allow.

The question, therefore, is how far British expenditure on science represents genuine investment, and how far it is simply consumer expenditure that a country with Britain's standard of living cannot afford.

Nor should we be convinced that we have no alternative but to pay for scientific equipment however much it costs. For example, one senior British official argues that if the price of domestic refrigerators had risen as rapidly as that of scientific and medical equipment, a single

'This may be the last chance for any serious academic institution to stop the catastrophe that we face as a scientific and educational nation'

- Denis Noble

refrigerator would now cost £10,000.

Part of the problem, of course, lies in the nature of the public sector. Domestic refrigerators do not cost £10,000. With prices like that, no refrigerator manufacturer could survive. The market shows him that, where private businesses buy very expensive scientific equipment for themselves, that is also for them as commercial enterprises to decide.

In the public sector, things are different. There is no market test of what can be afforded. What is spent depends on argument and negotiations. I can report a worrying signal for taxpayers. The high and rising cost of equipment is now being swept up in the jargon phrase "sophistication factor" - a sure sign that rigorous financial discussion is being avoided.

To change this, a good start would be to give priority to research funding to scientists of whose research plan is to bring about a significant reduction in equipment cost.

Looking at how much science Britain can afford highlights the connection between research and development. Spending more on basic science, even if it leads to commercial discoveries,



- Denis Noble

will not benefit the British economy significantly unless those discoveries are exploited by British companies. We are frequently told that it is foreigners, not the British, who exploit our discoveries. A very chauvinistic conclusion would be that if this is so Britain should reduce her expenditure on basic science in order to prevent other major industrial countries from developing more rapidly than we.

To be more serious, it is essential to strengthen the link between scientific research and industrial application. We in Britain have not yet got this connection right. I would not go so far as one business leader who recently suggested to me that Britain should stop basic scientific research altogether for 30 years and concentrate, as the Japanese used to do, on learning how to exploit other people's inventions.

Nevertheless, for the immediate future we need to ensure that we are devoting enough time and money - public and private - to strengthening the connection between basic scientific research and industrial innovation. If this delays an increase in expenditure on basic science, then so be it.

The First Scottish American Trust PLC

Results to 31st January.
Net asset value up by 22.6%.
Dividend rises by 31%.

In December 1984, the Trust's shareholders approved a change in investment policy and adopted growth of income as the main aim - without neglecting capital performance.

Substantial changes have been made to the portfolio with a view to achieving this objective. The investments at 31st January were distributed 71% in the UK, 17% in North America and 11% in Japan and other areas. A further dividend increase of at least 33% has been forecast for next year.

The First Scottish American Trust is managed by Dunedin Fund Managers Ltd.



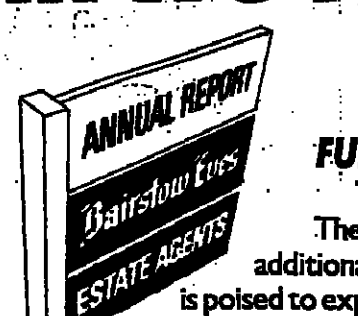
DUNEDIN FUND MANAGERS
3, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DS.
Telephone (031) 225 4571

Bairdstow Eves

The first residential estate agency to have its shares listed on The Stock Exchange.

RECORD RESULTS IN 1984

- 16,800 homes sold in 1984 - more than ever before.
- Profits rose to a new high of £3,061,000.
- Dividend to shareholders raised by 20%.
- In 1984 total branches up from 66 to 94.
- Earnings per share increased by 33% to 5.48p.
- Continued development of mortgage and financial services.



FURTHER PROFIT GROWTH EXPECTED

The expansion of the business is continuing, and with the additional funds of £6.8 million raised in January, the Company is poised to expand both by acquisition and internal growth. Acquisitions so far in 1985 increase total branches to 104.

For a copy of the 1984 Report & Accounts please write to:
Company Secretary, Bairdstow Eves PLC, 76 North Street, Romford, Essex RM1 1HD

Constructive trust requires intention

Bristol & West Building Society v Henning and Another

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Justice Lloyd (Judgment delivered April 2)

In the absence of express agreement or express trust, a right to a beneficial interest, under a constructive trust, could only be established by proving an express or imputed intention that a party other than the legal owner should have a beneficial interest in the property, which intention rendered it inequitable for the legal owner to claim the sole beneficial interest.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by the Bristol & West Building Society from a judgment of the Chancery Division at Exeter County Court which dismissed their claim for possession of The Villa, East Knowstoun, Devonshire, against the defendants, Martin Victor Henning and Patricia Mary Ingram (formerly Henning).

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Mr John Lindsay, QC and Mr David Blane for the society; Mr Steven Whitaker for the second defendant; Mr Henning did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the society claimed possession of The Villa, the first defendant was the mortgagee, Mr Henning, in whom alone the legal estate was vested. He did not resist the claim. The second defendant was Mary Ingram who was living in the house with her two children.

Although not married to Mr Henning, she lived with him for many years as man and wife and called herself Mrs Henning by which name she was called on the hearing of the appeal although she had now reverted to her original name.

Mrs Henning claimed that by reason of the arrangements made between her and Mr Henning, she had a right to stay in the house which was enforceable against the society and prevented them from getting possession.

Mr and Mrs Henning started to live together in 1974. In 1975 they agreed that Mr Henning, a surveyor, would buy a house in London on mortgage. The conveyance and mortgage of the first house was in Mr Henning's name alone.

Mrs Henning did not directly provide any of the purchase price. But she contributed to the furnishings and did work which she claimed gave her an equitable interest in that first house. They lived there until 1977 and their first child was born there.

In 1978 they agreed to buy The Villa. The intention was that Mr Henning would work as a surveyor and Mrs Henning in addition to domestic duties would start a "self-sufficiency" project with the large garden and common rights which were a major attraction to them in buying the house.

The Villa was conveyed to Mr Henning alone on February 17, 1978 at a price of £13,000 of which £11,000 was borrowed on mortgage from the society on security of a legal charge of the same date.

The conveyance and the legal charge contained nothing to suggest that Mr Henning was giving other than the sole beneficial owner of The Villa. But in his application for an advance made by Mr Henning to the society he described Mrs Henning as his wife and said that the property was intended to be used for the occupation of himself and his family.

Mrs Henning obviously did a great deal of work to make the self-sufficiency project work. She did building and decorative work and helped the family budget with small jobs. A second child was born in 1978.

Regina v Pennington
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Skinner and Mr Justice Simon Brown.
(Judgment delivered March 22)

The fact that a juror might for personal reasons have some bias towards prosecution or defence was no ground for disqualification of the juror. The Court of Appeal stated when refusing an application for leave to appeal against conviction.

Deputy Michael Pennington, formerly employed as a miner of Clitham, Wood, St. Helens, Merseyside, against conviction at Bolton Crown Court (Judge Forster and jury) on a charge of criminal damage to the motor car of a miner driving to work in it on July 24, 1984. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The car damage cost over £1,000 to repair. After conviction he was dismissed by the National Coal Board.

Mr Michael Mansfield and Mr John Bradley for the applicant; Mr Mark Lushbery for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE SKINNER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant was participating in the strike of miners at the time of the offence and the sole ground of appeal was that, unknown to the defence, a working miner was a member of the jury.

Two defendants, who also were among a group of pickets involved in turning over the car, were acquitted. The jury unanimously convicted the applicant. Mr Mansfield submitted that there was a real risk of prejudice in that the working miner might not have adhered to his oath. Unlike the acquitted co-defendants, the applicant was well known both to working and to striking miners. He had appeared regularly on stage.

LORD ROSKILL said that many of the documents were virtually illegible in whole or in part. Copies had been made from what were copies of copies.

Illegibility of that kind made effective advance reading of the papers prior to the hearing which

In February 1981 the relationship broke down and Mr Henning left The Villa. His proceedings for possession against Mrs Henning were disposed of by a consent order which recited that it had at all times been his intention that Mrs Henning should have a one half beneficial interest in the house and made declarations to that effect.

Meanwhile, Mr Henning had ceased to pay the mortgage instalments which had fallen much in arrears. The society started possession proceedings which Mrs Henning defended.

The judge rejected the claim that Mrs Henning had an equitable interest in The Villa but held that the society had conceded (conferred on her some property interest in The Villa, applying the decisions exemplified by *In re Sharpe* [1980] 1 WLR 219). He held that such interest was not registrable under the Land Charges Act 1972, that the society had constructive notice of her rights and refused an order for possession.

The basic fact was that the mortgage was granted to the society with the full knowledge and approval of Mrs Henning. There was a joint project to buy The Villa with the assistance of the mortgage without which The Villa could never have been bought.

Although she had unsuccessfully tried to find some way of paying the mortgage instalments, the logical result of her argument (if right) was that she was entitled to stay in possession indefinitely without making any payment. His Lordship would be reluctant to reach that strange result.

Assuming, without deciding, that Mrs Henning was entitled to a beneficial interest in The Villa or in some other property right of the kind exemplified in *In re Sharpe*, since there was no declaration or express agreement as to the beneficial interests, the only way in which Mrs Henning could establish either right in The Villa would be to show, *inter alia*, that as between her and Mr Henning there was an express or imputed assumption that she should have such a right.

In the absence of an express agreement or express trust, a right to a beneficial interest under a constructive trust could only be established by proving an express or imputed intention that a party other than the legal owner should have a beneficial interest in the property, which intention rendered it inequitable in the legal owner to claim the sole beneficial interest. See *Grain Processing (UK) Ltd v ACN 886, 905-906*.

Similarly, in the absence of an express agreement, such an intention or assumption must be proved in order to found the lesser property right of an equitable interest in a licence conferring a property interest. *In re Sharpe*.

It was impossible to impute to Mr and Mrs Henning any common intention, other than that she authorized Mr Henning to raise the money to purchase The Villa by mortgage to the society.

Since the nature of Mrs Henning's interest had to be found in the imputed intention of the parties, that imputed intention must have been that her interest was to be subject to that of the society, it was impossible for her to establish that she was entitled to some form of equitable interest in the property rights in priority to the society's rights.

Although his Lordship had considerable sympathy for Mrs Henning, the only correct answer in law was that her rights were subject to the rights of the society and the appeal must be allowed.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Assheton, Sloc Blackwell & Sloc, Barnstaple.

Bias is no ground for disqualifying juror

screen and television in the strike area and had contributed to various newspapers and pamphlets circulating in the area.

Mr Mansfield drew attention to *R v Chapman (1984) (1984) Cr App R 751* and *R v Mawhood (1981) QB 861* but his argument could not be maintained, to attack the conviction.

It was no ground for disqualification of a juror that he might for personal reasons have some bias towards prosecution or defence.

Even if it had been a ground for disqualification, that was no ground for setting aside a verdict given by personal reasons, but some bias towards prosecution or defence.

An argument based on a defendant's right to challenge for cause was untenable. It was suggested that, if the right was not exercised through no fault of the defendant's own, that itself would found an argument that the subsequent verdict was unsafe or unsatisfactory.

The implication was that if, in any case, a defendant inadvertently failed to challenge for cause, he could have the verdict set aside as unsafe and unsatisfactory. That was nonsense and their Lordships were not saying that they thought that there could be a valid challenge for cause on the facts of the instant case.

In any event the suspicion of bias, even if relevant, was exploded by the verdict of not guilty in respect of the two co-defendants, and that was said taking into account the applicant's testimony.

The application was rejected, as was also an application for leave to appeal against conviction.

Solicitors: Casson & Co, Salford; Mr D. S. Gandy, Manchester.

Documents illegible

was now the invariable practice of their Lordships, impossible without such reading the hearing of appeals was likely to take longer than it should.

Their Lordships therefore asked solicitors responsible for the preparation of the appeal and counsel, who when serving their cases had to have the record before them, to ensure that the documents in the record were legible in their entirety.

The 1985 Law Society final examination results are due to be published in *The Times* on Thursday April 4.

Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Limited

(A subsidiary of British Shipbuilders)

We have been requested by British Shipbuilders to find a purchaser for the whole of the share capital of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Limited.

Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Limited, based on the Tyne, specialises in building warships and sophisticated merchant vessels. Turnover for the year ended 31st March, 1984, was £102.4 million.

Lazard Brothers will, at its discretion, make available further information to interested parties. Initial offers should be submitted by 31st May, 1985. It should be noted, however, that under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977, the consent of the Secretary of State is required before British Shipbuilders disposes of any interest in any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Enquiries:
E W Dawnay

Telephone: 01-588 2721

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited,
21 Moorfields,
London EC2P 2HT.

BODDINGTONS' BREWERIES PLC

Results for the year to 31st December 1984

| | 1984 (£'000s) | 1983 (£'000s) |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Turnover | 51,587 | 47,701 |
| Trading profit | 9,958 | 9,432 |
| Profit before tax | 9,458 | 9,095 |
| Profit after tax | 5,159 | 5,082 |
| Dividend payment per share | 2.85p | 2.64p |

Points made by the Executive Chairman, Mr. Ewart Boddington:

- Trading profit rose by 5.6%, offset by higher interest charges and depreciation, largely resulting from the continued high level of investment in the licensed estate.
- Capital investment during the year amounted to £4.696m and a further £4.589 million has been earmarked for 1985.
- Sales of lager have grown strongly and made an increased contribution to profits.
- With the development of our catering activities, the profit from retailing has increased substantially.
- Boddingtons' Bitter in cans is one of the leading brands in the North West and the launch of 2 litre PET bottles of Boddingtons' Bitter has been well received.

Annual General Meeting, Britannia Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester, 11.45am Friday 3rd May.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from:
The Company Secretary, P.O. Box 331, Strangeways Brewery, Manchester M60 3EL.

Boddingtons

Strangeways Brewery, Manchester



April 3, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY/1

The young genius of a line to the future

In the 1830s Bristol could still claim to be the second city of Britain - but it was about to lose that distinction to Liverpool. The main reason was the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, which meant that goods arriving at the port could be taken to Manchester, 30 miles away, in under a day rather than weeks or months. Bristol, still dependent on bad roads and ponderous canals, took the point.

In 1832 four Bristol businessmen met in the city and decided that the way to stop the decline of the port was to build a rail link with London. A committee was formed, funds voted for a survey and in March, 1833 an engineer appointed to carry out the work. A young man of 27 who had been educated in France, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, was the son of the man who had created the first tunnel under the river Thames.

Brunel was already well-known in Bristol. His design for a suspension bridge over the Avon gorge at Clifton had been accepted against fierce competition and when the bridge was eventually completed, years after Brunel's death, it was acclaimed as "the wonder of the age". He was also the engineer charged with improvements to Bristol's floating harbour.

The Great Western Railway was a far greater challenge than either of these. The man chosen to carry it through stood barely 5ft high but what he lacked in physical presence he more than made up for in energy and talent. He often worked 20 hours a day to get the railway built and his bullet head was fertile with ideas, ranging from the brilliant to the near-dis-

trous. The GWR was to experience both, as well as Brunel's cavalier disregard for money. But without him the project could have been still-born.

Brunel's initial survey took only a month. His biggest problem was how to negotiate the Marlborough Downs. He opted for the Northern, rather than the Southern route, because of the gentler gradients, and in doing so put Swindon on the railway map. Soon the railway was no longer a Bristol affair. A London committee was formed and it was at a joint meeting of representatives of



Brunel, the driving force

the two cities in August 1833 that the title Great Western Railway was adopted.

The next steps were to get a Bill through Parliament giving approval to the line, and the raising of the necessary £2½ million of which half had to be subscribed before the Bill could be presented. Though the money, raised in £100 shares, was slow in coming, and despite opposition from landowners, the canal and coach interests and Eton College - which feared the railway would undermine

the status of its young men - the Bill received Royal Assent on August 31, 1835.

Almost immediately the project was embroiled in a technical controversy that was to rumble on for nearly 50 years. Up to then most railways had been built to a gauge (the width between the rails) of 4ft 8½in, or the same as that used in collieries before the advent of the steam engine. Brunel, however, wanted a gauge of 7ft, or half as much again.

He had persuasive arguments. The extra width would give greater stability and allow trains to travel faster, more safely and in greater comfort. Against this, the 7ft gauge was less suitable for sharp curves. More important, Brunel was in a minority of one, flying in the face of what became the standard practice not only of British but European rail networks. For the moment, though, he got his way.

The first section of line, the 22 miles from Paddington (a temporary terminus - the present station did not open until the 1850s) to Maidenhead was ready in June, 1838. The first train left Paddington at 8 am on Whit Monday, June 4, and carried 200 passengers. It was cheered on its way by huge crowds who turned out to see what *The Times* called "this stupendous undertaking".

Technical problems bedevilled the early months of the Great Western. Brunel's method of laying the track caused the rails to sag, giving passengers a bone-shaking ride. The locomotives proved to be underpowered and unreliable and showed a disinclination to stay on the rails. With the board

doubting Brunel's competence and pressure mounting for the appointment of a second engineer, Brunel came close to resignation.

But one by one, helped by Brunel's brilliant young locomotive engineer Daniel Gooch, the teething troubles were overcome and work on new stretches of the line forged ahead. Reading was reached in 1840 and from there the line moved north-west, following the valley of the Thames to Didcot, before resuming its westward path across the Vale of White Horse to Swindon.

Meanwhile work was proceeding in the opposite direction. The Bristol-to-Bath line opened in August 1840 and with the London section offering an uninterrupted route to beyond Chippenham, only the southernmost tip of the Cotswolds between Chippenham and Bath remained to be conquered. The solution was the two-mile Box Tunnel, which took five years to build.

On June 30, 1841, a directors' train made the first official run from Paddington to Bristol, completing the 118 miles in four hours. The core of the Great Western was established. It had cost £6½ million, three times the original estimate. The following year the GWR received royal approval when Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to travel by rail. She afterwards wrote to King Leopold of the Belgians: "We arrived yesterday morning, having come by the railroad from Windsor; in half an hour, free from dust and crowd and heat, and I am quite charmed by it."

Peter Waymark

Navvies' death and glory mission

The building of the Great Western Railway was civil engineering on the heroic scale. Motorway construction provides a 20th century parallel but when Brunel started on the London to Bristol line in the 1830s he was embarking on a project more ambitious than anything attempted in Britain before. Moreover the men who built the line - the railway navvies - did so mainly with picks and shovels.

It is the inevitable characteristic of railways that they have to run more or less level. If the gradient is too steep, the wheels will lose their friction. Creating a railway means bridges, cuttings and tunnels. In the early years of the Great Western, the company's engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, provided striking examples of each.

On his very first stretch of line, going west out of London, he was faced with the challenge of having to cross the Thames near Maidenhead. His answer was characteristically novel: a brick bridge with two of the widest and flattest arches ever seen. They had a span of 128ft and a maximum height of only 24ft. Sceptics predicted that the whole edifice would, once the wooden centring was removed, collapse into the river. One newspaper sent a correspondent to watch it happen.

But Brunel's design was practical as well as elegant. There was a slight flattening of the arches, due to the contractor taking away the centring too early. The fault was remedied

and the arches are still there today. When the bridge was widened to take four tracks, the original arches were incorporated in the new structure.

The next big obstacle was Sonning Hill between Maidenhead and Reading. Deciding against a tunnel, Brunel drove an open cutting two miles long and up to 60ft deep. The work was carried out during a winter of exceptional rain and fierce gales. Conditions were appalling and many times the work was held up as men and horses fought a losing battle against a sea of mud.

Brunel's greatest feat on the original London to Bristol route was negotiating Box Hill, the southern tip of the Cotswolds between Chippenham and Bath. This time it had to be a tunnel. The statistics of its construction are awesome: it took five years to complete, and involved 4,000 men and 300 horses working day and night. The tunnel ran for two miles and was the longest so far built in Britain.

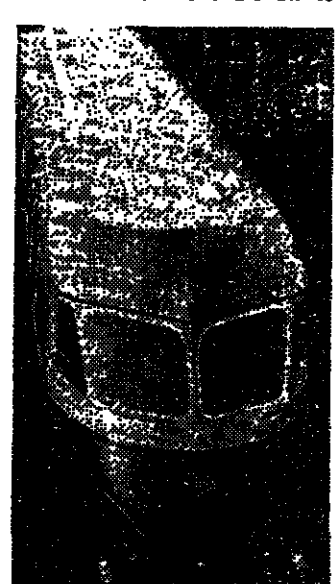
When Brunel first presented plans for the tunnel to a House of Commons committee, one witness called it "monstrous, extraordinary, most dangerous and impracticable" and claimed that it would "cause the wholesale destruction of human life". Others were disturbed by the 1 in 100 incline and raised visions of passengers meeting a horrible death as trains ran out of control.

There was nearly a death on the night after the tunnel's opening when Daniel Gooch, the GWR's locomotive engineer,

was reversing an engine and discovered to his horror that another was approaching on the same line.

Box Tunnel was built by thousands of navvies, working by candlelight and helped only by horses and weekly charges of gunpowder. They removed 347,000 cubic yards of stone and earth. More than 1,000 men lost their lives and many more were treated for serious injuries or the effects of alcohol, which became the common escape from such punishing and dangerous work.

Taking the main line into South Wales and across the River Tamar from Devon to



Diesel railcars in the 1930s

Cornwall involved spectacular bridges, the one forming the prototype for the other. In the first case, Brunel's task was to cross the River Wye at Chepstow. The tidal range was one of the highest in Europe; and the approaches were a 120ft limestone cliff on the left bank and low ground liable to flooding on the right. The total length to be bridged was 600ft, or twice the width of the water.

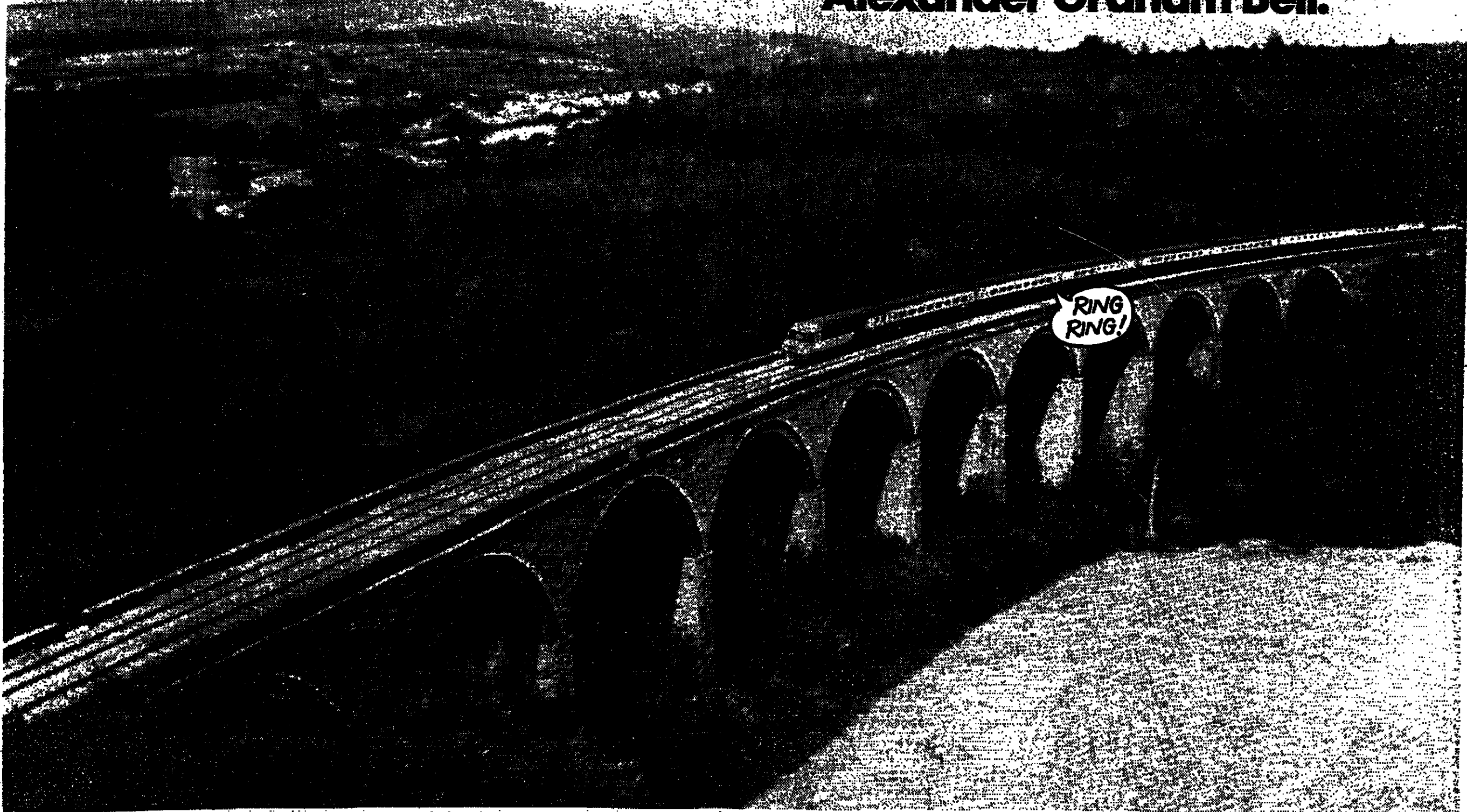
Brunel's solution was a type of suspension bridge, made of wrought iron, in which the main span was suspended from the ends of a horizontal tube mounted on piers rising 50ft above the railway. He used the same principle, to great aesthetic effect, to bridge the Tamar at Saltash. Here the river was 1,100ft wide and 70ft deep at high water.

Within months of the Royal Albert Bridge being opened Brunel was dead, leaving the last great effort of GWR engineering to his successors. This was the Severn Tunnel, for which parliamentary authority was granted in 1872.

The barrier was the River Severn, with its tidal rise of more than 50ft; and it could be overcome either by a tunnel or a bridge. Cheaper to build, a bridge during the 1860s was the favoured solution. But the engineer, Charles Richardson, who had served under Brunel, managed to convince the GWR board that a tunnel was preferable.

PW

Now, courtesy of British Rail, Isambard Kingdom Brunel meets Alexander Graham Bell.



RING RING!

To help celebrate our 150th birthday, this year sees the introduction of payphones on all our London-bound InterCity 125s.

As if this weren't enough, by the end of next year the Western region will be boasting 50 new Sprinter trains, 13 new lightweight

diesels, and an extra carriage on most of our 125s to the west country.

All this, together with the opening of at least four new stations, should mean that our 151st birthday may be an even bigger celebration than our 150th.

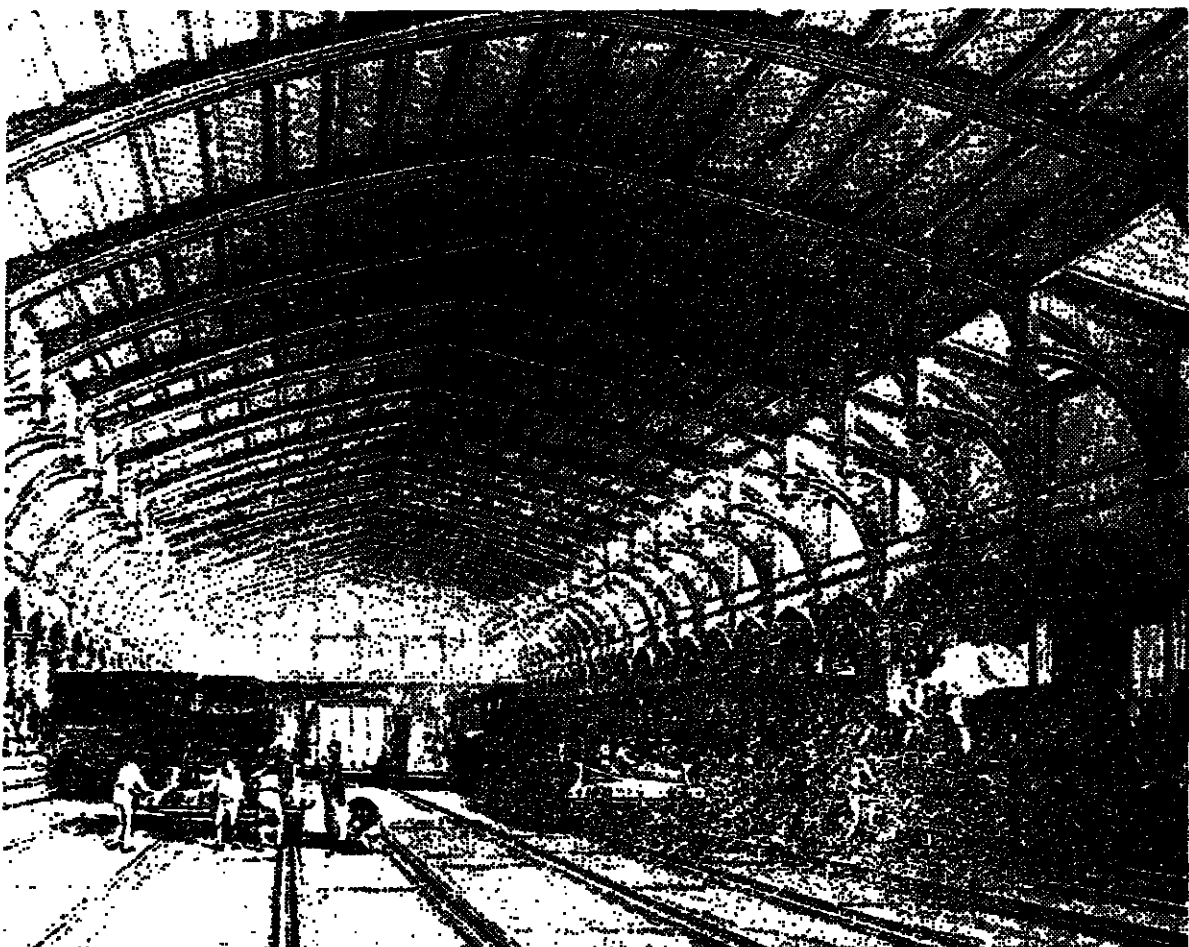
We're getting there ➡

BRISTOL

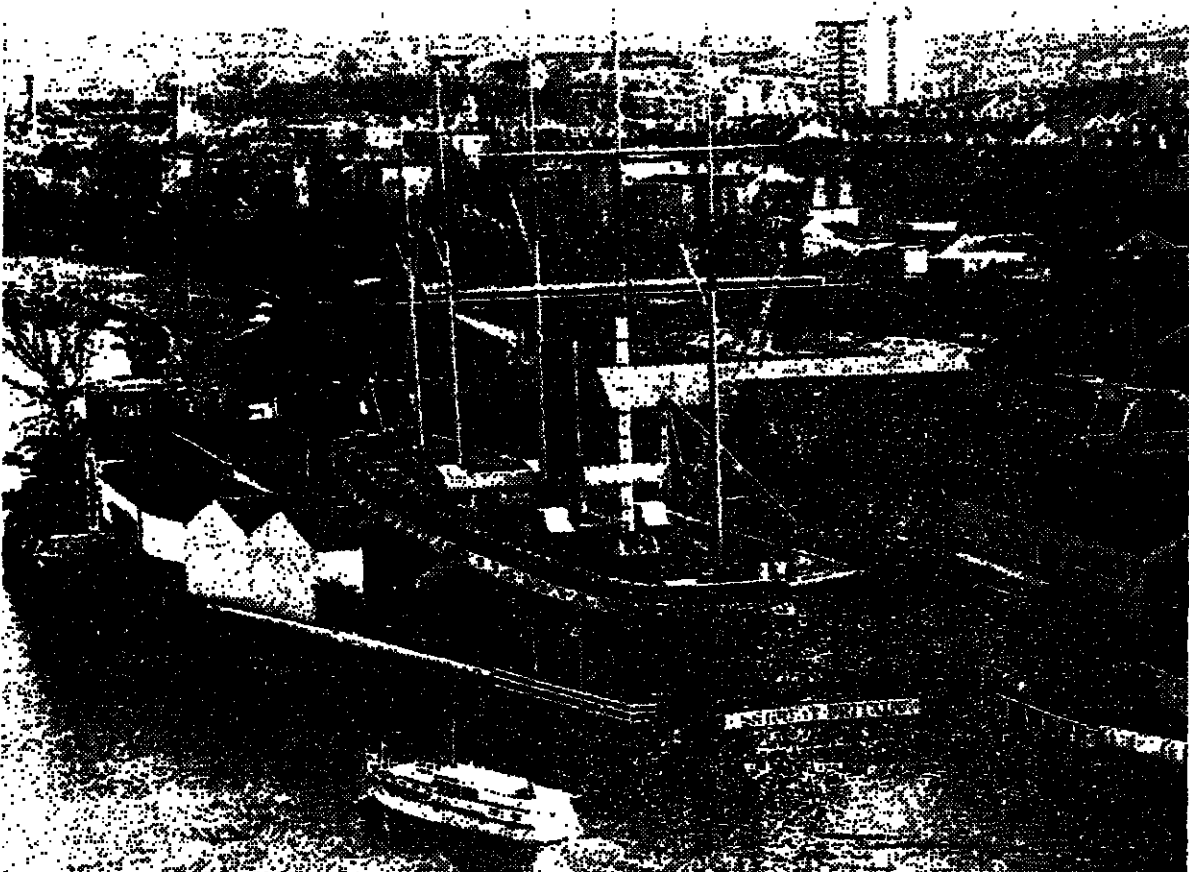
BIRTHPLACE OF THE GWR
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Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol. From 25 May the railway line beneath the Suspension Bridge, down The Avon Gorge to Portishead, re-opens for week-end passenger services. Sponsored by the Bristol Evening Post.



Brunel's Temple Meads Railway Terminus, Bristol (built 1840), the earliest surviving major railway terminus in the world; is now being restored and will be open to the public from 9 April. Exhibition sponsored by London Life.



Brunel's S.S. Great Britain—in Bristol's Historic Harbour—under restoration and open to the public. The world's first iron-hulled screw-driven ocean liner. From 31 May the railway line from Temple Meads to the S.S. Great Britain opens for week-end passenger services sponsored by Imperial Tobacco.



For details of the G.W.R. 150 Bristol programme of events please send a stamped addressed envelope to: The Bristol Marketing Board, The City of Bristol, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR.

GREAT WESTERN
RAILWAY/2

(SPECIAL REPORT)

Holidays at the end of the track

A steam train in soft focus passing through rolling English countryside, evoking memories of long forgotten summer holidays, has now almost become a film makers' cliché. The days when families set out with a sense of excitement, expectation and a little apprehension on their rail journey, with carefully planned connections carrying them on towards the sparkling sea, today conjures up an image of a more restful age.

To generations, the railway was the principal means of holiday transport before the days of car ownership and package holidays to the Continent, and nowhere was better served with holiday destinations than the area of Britain covered by the old Great Western Railway and its successor, British Rail's Western Region. Packed into the route maps were almost 1,000 miles of coastline and hundreds of picturesque inland tourist spots for the traveller to choose from.

The end of the 19th century saw the start of the golden age of rail travel, and GWR launched an intensive advertising campaign, selling itself as "The Holiday Line" no idle boast for a company with so much to offer.

To cater for the growing holiday business the company set up an elaborate network of branch lines, bringing resorts like Torquay, Newquay, Weston-super-Mare and Tenby within easy reach of the population centres of London, the Midlands and Manchester.

These destinations could be reached without moving out of the GWR area. In the days before nationalization, cross-country journeys could force a traveller to make many changes as trains from one company were not readily allowed access to lines of another. But the GWR, by judicious purchases and deals with smaller companies, suffered from this less than others and made great play of it in its advertising material.

Resorts fortunate enough to be on the GWR network prospered while others, often with equal attractions but not served by a rail link, never gained the popularity of their luckier neighbour.

Marketing the facilities on offer to holidaymakers was always one of the strong points



The Holiday Haunts book for holiday planners: The picture from the 1938 issue depicts the restaurant car and the camping coaches which brought affordable holidays to the less well-off.

of the GWR. Families eagerly awaited the arrival each spring of a bumper-sized publication, Holiday Haunts, published by the company and containing up to 1,000 pages of regional information, beautifully printed with photogravure illustrations and page after page of accommodation lists, all for the cost of 6d (2.5p).

All manner of information was there for the fireside planners. In 1938 for instance, an eight-day holiday to the Wye Valley, including rail travel from London, hotel accommodation and four excursions, was available for an inclusive £6.19.6.

For those less well-off, Camp Coaches, which were pensioned-off coaches sited in country areas, could be rented. With basic accommodation, equipped with up to ten bunks, they could be had for as little as £3 a week.

To ease the strain of travelling, one shilling (5p) bought a snack box, or for three shillings a full luncheon basket, and for those wealthy enough to travel first class, it was possible to borrow a small folding table to make the meal more enjoyable. Season tickets then, as now, were popular. For 10/6d you could explore Cornwall for a week, and in the case of tickets

for Devon, cruise the River Dart.

Nor did the company confine its interests to rail transport. It diversified perhaps more than any of its competitors into complementary services, investing heavily in a new trans-Atlantic terminal at Fishguard, pioneering motor coach services in Cornwall, steamers serving Ireland and the Channel Islands, and even an airline to carry passengers from Cornwall to South Wales.

The personification of the Great Western—the Cornish Riviera express—started its regular non-stop Paddington-Plymouth run in July 1904, doing more to publicize the line and link it firmly with the image of holidays, than any other regular train. It has maintained its role, and when the new 125 locomotives were introduced the Cornish Riviera became the first service on the Western Region's west of England route to be equipped with them 75 years after the start of the service.

West Country routes, although depleted by the pruning of the last 30 years, are still big earners for the tourist trade. Michael Weaver, of the West Country Tourist board, estimates that on last year's figures holidaymakers arriving by train accounted for expenditure of some £130 million in the area covered by his board.

One of the prime destinations, the Torquay area, sees the rail link as vital to its continued prosperity. The director of tourism for Torbay, Tim Whitehead, quoting the last available figures (1981), says that of the 1.5 million visitors to the area at least 210,000 arrived by train—either by scheduled services or excursion specials. BR, anxious to avoid overcrowding, has said it will insist on seat reservations on trains from the north and Midlands this summer.

Some 50 years since those bustling summer Saturdays when trains, not cars, became involved in lengthy hold-ups on the outskirts of popular resorts, the old Great Western routes are still part of the prime BR holiday network.

In their current brochure for inclusive rail holidays, BR, which has adopted an aggressive marketing stance with Golden Rail holidays, lists 24 destinations. It is a fitting tribute to the old Great Western Railway that almost half of them are resorts that were established as a result of the foresight and business acumen of the company.

Geoffrey Ellis



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150th Anniversary

SPECIAL REPORT

GREAT WESTERN
RAILWAY /3Daring days on
'God's Wonderful
Railway'

From its beginnings as a West country railway linking Bristol and London, the Great Western expanded to cover most of the country west of a line from the capital to Birkenhead. It pushed into Devon and Cornwall, helping to encourage the local holiday resorts. It served the whole of Wales, and it provided an alternative route to Birmingham and the Midlands.

Along the way it acquired a distinctive style and personality. Its sometimes circuitous routes earned it the nickname "The Great Way Round", but cut-off lines took care of that and the Great Western expresses, hauled by the magnificent Star, City and Castle class locomotives, were a sight to behold. The doubts were silenced and GWR came to stand for nothing less than "God's Wonderful Railway".

Already as the London-Bristol line was built, plans were well advanced for expansion further west. By 1844 an associated company, with Brunel as engineer, had opened a line to Taunton and Exeter. In the same year Parliament gave its approval for a further 59 miles from Exeter to Plymouth, and if the broad gauge was one Brunel eccentricity, the South Devon railway was to see an even more daring experiment.

This was atmospheric traction. Instead of being hauled by steam locomotives, trains would be propelled by compressed air pumped through a large diameter pipe between the rails. The pipe carried a continuous slot in its upper surface. In the pipe there ran a piston, connected by a rod to the leading coach. As pumping engines created a vacuum in the front of the piston, it was pushed forward taking the train with it.

They system was mechanically simple, almost silent, and free of smoke or smell. But Brunel was attracted to it mainly by doubts whether steam locomotives could cope with the exceptionally steep gradients between Newton Abbot and Plymouth. Atmospheric traction had been tried, with some success, in southern Ireland. But Brunel's attempt to extend it to Devon was plagued with technical difficulties, and

was far more expensive than had been envisaged.

After a two year delay atmospheric trains were introduced between Exeter and Teignmouth in September 1847 and to Newton Abbot four months later. On a mainly level route the trains proved as fast as steam, but the mechanical problems proved insuperable. The most serious was the failure of the leather flap to seal the valve and keep the pump airtight: water from condensation collected in the pipe and the leather itself started to disintegrate. Brunel was forced to admit defeat.

Plymouth was reached in 1849 and Brunel survived the failure of the atmospheric railway to plan the final part of the route to Penzance, the most south-westerly town in the country. Held up by shortage of money and crossing a difficult terrain — 34 viaducts had to be erected over 53 miles between Plymouth and Truro — the building of the line was a slow business.

In May 1859 Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, opened Brunel's bridge over the Tamar which took the railway from Devon into Cornwall. Its creator was too ill to attend the ceremony and four months later he was dead. The Royal Albert Bridge, bearing the legend "I. K. Brunel, engineer", was his last monument. It was not until 1867 that the first train steamed into Penzance.

Largely thanks to the railway, the West became the favourite British holiday area. At the height of the season, expresses left Paddington on Saturday mornings every few minutes. The most famous was (and still is) the Cornish Riviera, which made its first run in 1904 and set a world record for the longest non-stop journey, 245 miles from London to Plymouth via Bristol. In the same year a GWR locomotive, City of Truro, became the first in the world to reach 100 mph.

Meanwhile the extension of the Great Western main line into South Wales became possible in 1852 with the opening of another of Brunel's great engineering feats, the bridge over the River Wye near Chepstow. Swansea, and later



Western Region 1964: The final days of steam power on the line give a feeling of timelessness as a footplate man leans out of Pendennis Castle after a run to Westbury, Wiltshire (top), and a typical branch line working, as an Auto Tank loco takes on water at Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Fishguard — the port for Ireland — became directly linked to London; and the creation of the through route was an important stimulus to the South Wales coal industry. In the 1880s the way to Wales was shortened by the Severn Tunnel.

The expansion of the GWR into the Midlands and North Wales proceeded less smoothly. Other companies were in competition and Brunel had to forgo the 7½ gauge he had used for the Penzance and South Wales routes in favour of the standard 4ft 8½in. As early as 1844 Gloucester became the first town to experience the

rival gauges on adjoining platforms, and the long delays caused by having to move passengers and goods from one train to another undermined the case for uniformity, though the 7½ gauge did not disappear completely until 1892.

The regrouping of the nation's railway into four companies from the beginning of 1923 left the Great Western intact and further acquisitions added another 750 route miles. Between the wars the GWR was of all the companies the most glamorous and successful.

Taking a tippie on
the fast track

When the Superintendent of the Line looked across the transept of Brunel's cathedral of iron at Paddington, he would have been very conscious of the trust placed on him to make the best of the Great Western's magnificent heritage of routes, buildings and technical achievements. But most in his mind when he took stock of his job would have been the importance of upholding the greatest of all Great Western traditions: keeping the company in equally high esteem among its customers and staff.

Especially following the abolition of the broad gauge in 1892, the railway built an amazing relationship with its customers. Indeed, never before or since has so large, complex and spread-out an organization been so popular among those who paid for its services and relied on them for their needs. That is not to say that there were not sometimes complaints, but the everyday atmosphere was one of enlightened co-operation, and on special occasions the customers were never slow in coming forward — to raise money for the local stationmaster's retirement memorial, for the clocks of a newly-rebuilt station, or for a joint publicity scheme.

Many people decided that when they retired and could move away from a city it would have to be on GWR territory: the fact that a resort was served by a GWR express gave it a distinct edge in tourist development.

The staff loyalty was unique. At the time of the centenary in 1935, there were about 100,000 employees (today's Western Region figure is 18,500) nearly all acutely conscious they were working for a company unlike any other, enjoying a range of benefits unequalled in most of the commercial world. Many were second or third generation GWR men.

From the start the company looked after its men well, though demanding much from them. Swindon was the ideal railway town. A variety of self-

help societies were developed ahead of their time, encouraged and often given practical help by the management. The GWR was a pioneer in holiday, sickness and pension arrangements, and most of the staff felt that promotion was given fairly. It was of course paternalistic, but it worked, and even today retired engine drivers and others in their eighties enjoy telling of the day they were rewarded for some special effort or suggestion.

Part of the magic, of course, lay in the fact that the railway knew it was unusual in its pursuit of excellence — and enjoyed telling everybody so. In the 1930s it was perhaps the best publicized commercial organization the world had yet seen. It advertised extensively, and co-ordinated the design of everything from its ships (it also pioneered bus and air services in the West) to the linen in the restaurant car to give exactly the right impression. In the restaurant car you drank Great Western whisky and ate Great Western assorted biscuits with your cheese, perhaps reading a Great Western book "For Boys of all Ages" or considering whether to take home a Great Western jig-saw puzzle for the children.

The Great Western's popularity and belief in itself was bound to make things difficult after nationalization. At times the Western Region still went its own way, developing a fleet of diesel hydraulic locomotives while others went diesel electric, and even restoring the famous chocolate-and-cream livery for passenger coaches. Then it was cut down to size. It lost Weymouth, Birmingham and North Wales, and was told to forget its history and conform. It was painful.

But nobody could deny the excellence of the infrastructure handed down by Brunel and his successors.

David St John



A GWR jig-saw to keep the children happy

Harveys is delighted to support the GWR 150th anniversary celebrations by producing a special commemorative sherry bottling, 'The Brunel Blend' the sales proceeds of which will be donated to the restoration of Brunel's original Bristol railway terminus and by rescuing for restoration the former CWR express locomotive no. 6023, King Edward II.

Harveys hope that these celebrations will mark the beginning of a new era of prosperity for the famous city of Bristol with which Harveys and the GWR are so closely associated.



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'The Great Western in Wales'

June 14 - October 31, 1985

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SOME OF THE NAMES
ON THE LOCOS OF TRAINS
THAT WERE BUILT BY THE MEN
OF SWINDON

Few railway works can boast the traditions of Swindon.

And probably fewer still can boast the long list of famous names associated with "the town on the hill".

For it is here, in 1840, that a certain Mr I K Brunel and his Superintendent of Locomotives, Daniel Gooch, decided to build a central repair depot for the locomotives of the Great Western Railway — so beginning over 140 years of service to the railways of Britain.

From that humble start as a depot the Works grew into a complete railway industry.

First came the building of locomotives, around 1846. The manufacture of carriages and wagons followed 3 years later. At its zenith Swindon employed some 14,000 people and covered an area of 326 acres.

Its magnificence was matched only by the reputation of its products and craftsmanship.

To-day the legendary steam locos have gone. So too the Great Western Railway and others of its era.

And though Swindon no longer blazes the trail of its former years, the skills and craftsmanship of its workforce are still very much in evidence.

British Rail Engineering is proud to have Swindon as one of its nine works. Its contribution, past and present, is a valid part of our business — the business of servicing railways in Britain and throughout the world.

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Since we introduced unit linked plans in October 1982 our investment expertise has been even more readily available to all. For example an original Investment Bond for £10,000 invested in Managed Fund units would now be worth £16,252.* And a similar Equity Fund investment has actually doubled (£20,038*) in less than 30 months.

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Records tumbled as the pioneer forged ahead

In a whole generation, only one passenger aboard a Great Western Railway train was killed. This safety record - never approached by any mode before or since - was partly due to the discipline and co-operative spirit that permeated the system. The rest was the result of one of the GWR's many technical innovations, among them the world's first semi-automatic signalling system.

It was called Automatic Train Control, though the description was not quite accurate. Through a ramp laid between the rails ahead of each distant signal on main lines, the driver received an audible indication of "all clear" or "caution". True, if he took no action when the "caution" siren sounded, the

While other railways innovated, the GWR felt it needed no better

brakes would go on, but the warning could - and eventually had to be - cancelled manually. BR's post-war system adopts the same principles, though it is more sophisticated.

Other examples of technical innovation were in track laying and maintenance, specialized freight rolling stock, diesel railcars, and, of course, locomotives and speed.

Throughout its history, the Great Western was a fast as well as a safe line. Between the two world wars, the Cheltenham Flyer was the world's fastest train, as the Cornish Riviera made the world's longest non-stop run.

Ironically, though the GWR

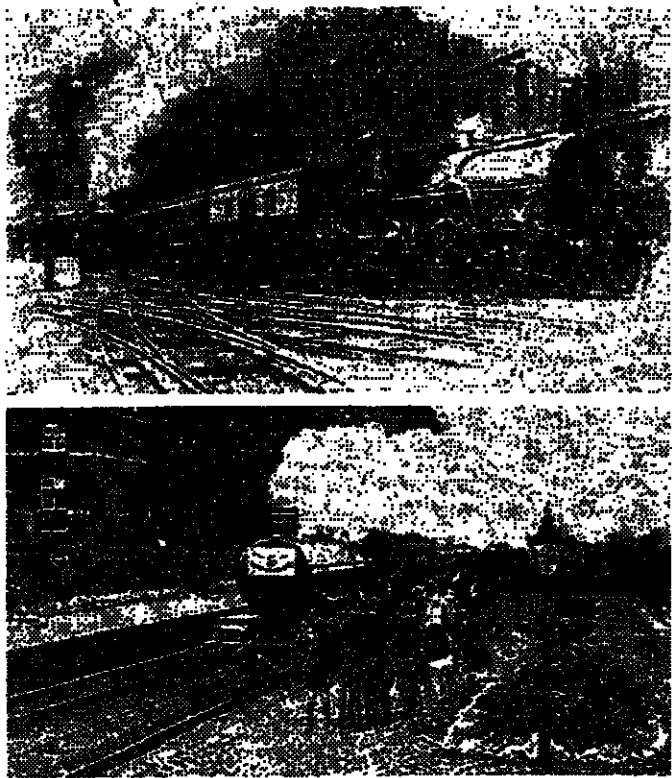
had been the first British company to introduce an express locomotive with the Pacific 4-6-2 wheel arrangement, the Great Bear was a solitary example, later cut back into a 4-4-0 Castle-class locomotive. But the Great Western's 4-6-2s were legendary, with high tractive efforts and sure-footedness that amazed the Americans when the first of the Kings, King George V, No 6000, showed that sheer size was not everything.

Great Western locomotives, with their neat tapering boilers capped by shining copper domes, were instantly recognizable, one class leading naturally on to the next, the Stars to the Castles and the Castles to the Kings. The Kings incredibly hauled the crack expresses for over 30 years. While other railways innovated, the Great Western felt it needed no better. And while this was true in steam terms, the attitude lost the opportunity for a march forward with diesel. The first diesels (hydraulics as opposed to the diesel electrics elsewhere on BR) were not much more powerful, and little acceleration was possible.

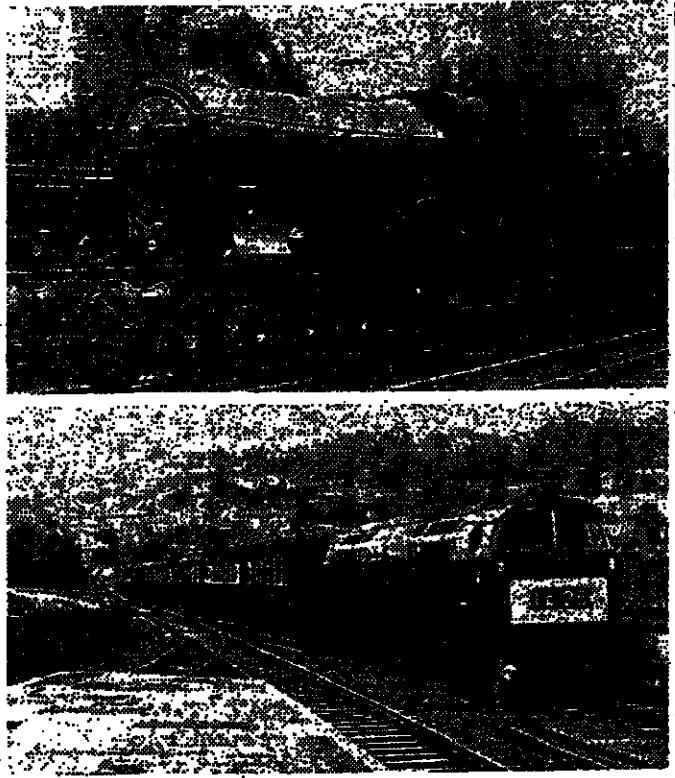
But with the high-speed trains, the Western went back to putting record power under the bonnet.

On a special run last month, we hurtled out of Whitehall Tunnel into Devon just 91 minutes after leaving Paddington. Improved track alignments and signalling will make possible considerable further accelerations over the next few years.

D St J T



Top left: Brunel's old Broad Gauge was used for the last time when one of the Iron Duke class locos pulled out of Paddington on May 20, 1892. Top right: The City of Truro built in 1904 became the first locomotive to exceed the magical 100 mph. Above left: The Cheltenham Flyer became the world's fastest train in 1929, and above right: A final gesture of independence by Western Region was the introduction of diesel hydraulics.



A birth fraught with difficulties

Fainting women, waterlogged carriages, pitched battles and even a threat to discipline at Eton were just some of the topics touched on in the *Times* by its coverage of events involving the early days of the Great Western Railway.

Some of the mentions, as in parliamentary debates, are of a serious nature but others, culled from the early news, letters, and leader columns, have been gilded with charm and frequently humour by the passage of time.

The Great Western Railway would prove a curse to a great part of the country through which it was planned to run, proclaimed Lord Boston in 1835, speaking in the House of Lords during the third reading of the Great Western Railway

Bill, which was to establish the railway.

It was not only in Parliament that the company faced opposition. During the building of the first stretch of the line some three years later, *The Times* reported on a "Desperate Riot on the Great Western Railway". For several days hundreds of Irish and English labourers armed with pickaxe handles and machetes fought one another in battles over pay rates.

The opening of the first stretch between London and Maidenhead on June 4, 1838, was preceded by a series of modest classified advertisements, detailing the sparse service the new company planned to run.

The report reads more like a gazetteer than a news article.

There is a delightful description of the first train, in which the writer was much taken with the delights of the line, including the new Kensal Green cemetery and the huge Hanwell lunatic asylum. Hanwell schoolchildren were formed up to cheer as the train passed, and horses in nearby fields bolted with fright.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Daniel Gooch, two names that are synonymous with the railway, travelled on the footplate of the train carrying Queen Victoria on her first rail journey.

Shrouded in great secrecy, the royal trip from Slough to Paddington took place on June 13, 1842. Despite the splendidly appointed apartments at Slough station provided for the Queen, she passed the time, while the preparations were made, by subjecting the train and particularly the royal saloon to a close scrutiny.

Low pay for railwaymen, particularly on the Great Western, was a contributory factor to the crop of accidents in 1865, said another writer.

With graphic turn of phrase, the letter went on: "We seem destined to have our ears shocked periodically, and our families scattered in fatal and bloody wrecks close to our own doors, suffering an agonizing and sudden death."

His remedy for the situation was for the company to use some of its considerable revenue to increase pay and train better staff.

Some 27 years after the first train had run, a grim-tongued leader in *The Times* remarked that the railway afforded a spectacle of decaying magnificence, resembling a sleepy Continental town.

The Great Western, it said, had its memories of greatness. All along the line were to be found traces of its original splendour but the railway had become, it continued sombrely, a tomb of grand experiments.

Even if the proposed financial restructuring of the company was successful, it could never pretend to be the Great Western of old, claimed *The Times*.

GE

How you can join in the celebrations

The celebration of the anniversary offers many opportunities for public participation, including on April...

6.13.20 Three-part BBC local radio documentary broadcast on Radio Devon and Radio London; 10 other stations will also be broadcasting the series (details from Radio Times).

7 Official opening of celebrations. Excursion train from London to Plymouth, double steam-hauled from Bristol to Plymouth (all seats sold, but some excursion runs on July 7 and 14 and September 1 and 8).

8 Excursion train, Plymouth-Bristol-Plymouth, steam-hauled Plymouth to Bristol.

9 Birthday of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Opening of the Bristol Temple Meads terminus to the

public, exhibitions and other special events through the year.

17 "The Royal Road - 150 Years of Enterprise", lecture by Philip Reese, recently retired chief civil engineer of British Rail Western Region, at Bristol University. The lecture is being repeated at 13 other venues.

And on May...

5 Open day, Westbury Maintenance Depot. Other Western Region depots are staging open days during the summer.

18 (to June 2) Great Western Society gala, Steam in Action, Didcot Railway Centre, Oxfordshire.

25 Bristol Temple Meads to Portishead railway re-opens for passenger trains with mixture of steam and diesel.

29 Opening ceremony for Exhibition Train, Paddington, with displays and memorabilia of the Great Western and British Rail Western Region, it will tour the region, steam-hauled over some stretches, and visit 34 venues from Swansea to Didcot, often in conjunction with local events.

On the wagon into cider country

While the Great Western Railway was always publicized as the holiday line, commerce was in the minds of its founding Bristol merchants. Coal and other minerals were largely responsible for enabling the company to pay higher dividends than the other major railways.

In the days when railways were common carriers, the Great Western served customers of every conceivable kind handsomely, with all manner of general and specialized facilities like the station truck, farm removals and trains packed with Cornish brocoli.

But the backbone of the freight business has always been minerals, especially South Wales coal that came through the Severn Tunnel with such regularity that it seemed almost a pipeline. Much of the profits were, however, earned in South Wales and so it is today.

Those who think that South Wales coal is done for might be surprised to know that about five million tons a year is carried by merry-go-round trains from pit to power station in short journeys made profitable by the use of high-capacity wagons that are never uncoupled and unload while slowly on the move.

As with British Rail as a whole, coal accounts for about half the total freight business, and though the economics of handling it have been vastly improved as the once-called "trestles" of lines up the valleys have been cut back, there is natural anxiety that the future is less certain than for the Nottinghamshire and several other coalfields. The Western would also be happier if it could be assured of the future of the Llanwern steel works near Newport, where three sets of intensively-used wagons carry 2,200 tons a time three times a day - traffic ideally suited to rail.

Most of the South Wales docks are even now not even rail-connected, and other specialist traffics can almost be counted on the fingers of one hand. Cement from Aberthaw (as from Westbury and Plymouth in the West Country) has proved particularly valuable, while oil still comes up country for West Wales.

South Wales accounts for two of the Western's freightier

depots at Cardiff and Swansea and at Bristol there is stable business. Throughout the region more is seen of continental vehicles off the rail ferries, and of course the building of a Channel Tunnel would be warmly welcomed.

Generally, the freight management has had to work hard, and imaginatively to ensure the Western does not become too exclusively a passenger line; the GWR would certainly never have paid just carrying passengers. There have indeed been success stories. Company trains carrying fertilizers and liquids have become noticeably more common over some routes, while the new, sophisticated china clay wagons tell a good story with daily traffic from mid-Cornwall to the Potteries.

Many people will be familiar with the advertisement telling how Taunton cider has taken to the rails for its journey to Scotland, and the Guinness from Park Royal and cider from Bulmers at Hereford are also useful traffics. A greater drive by being made for the carriage of semi-finished goods such as cold-rolled steel coil lost some of the heavy traffics disappear. And Avon County Council is the first non-metropolitan authority to decide to convey waste by train, from Bristol-Bath to Bedfordshire.

Generally, the Western is making the best of such opportunities, but wishes there were more of them; if only a Falmouth container terminal could become a reality, for example. But there is one traffic coming whose scope nobody could have guessed at two decades ago: aggregates from Foster Yeoman's quarries in the south Midlands.

Around six million tons a year is currently handled, long-distance business ensuring the retention of the direct "Via Castle Cary" route to the South West.

The high-tech industries and small business generally do not generate substantial freight, but it has to be recorded that much of recent job creation throughout the region's territory 100 or more miles from London has only been made possible because of quick, reliable train communication to the Central and Midlands and North.

D St J T

SPECIAL RUN OF THE Venice-Simplon ORIENT EXPRESS

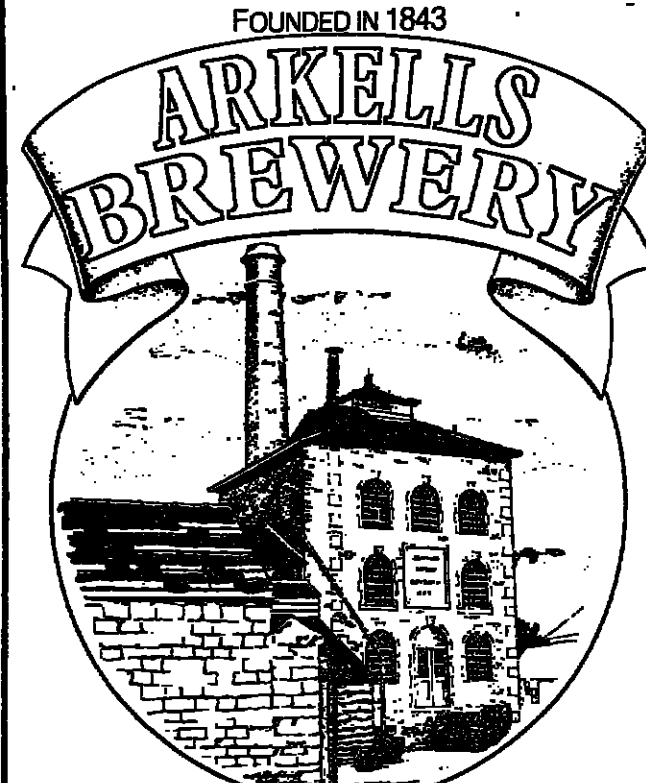
BRISTOL AND BATH TO VENICE
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Weekend package includes 2 days on the Orient Express travelling through Europe.

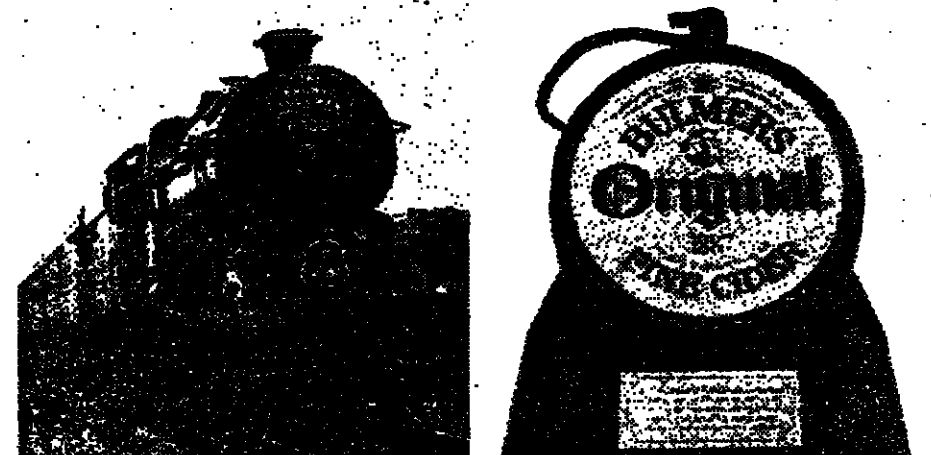
2 nights in Venice at the 5 star Hotel Danieli or the 4 star Hotel Des Bains on the Lido. Air travel, Venice to Bristol Airport.

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(We're that pleased to be supporting the restoration
of Brunel's Bristol Temple Meads terminus)

We're happy to be helping restore Temple Meads as a permanent exhibition of the age of steam. After all, London Life was founded in 1866 - the year of Brunel's birth. And our head office is on the site of the original station stables. What's more, like the Great Western itself, we've established a reputation for excellence - reflected in the fact that Brunel himself was one of our policyholders.



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ATHLETICS

Ovett steps into the Golden Shoe on his road to recovery

By Pat Butcher

Steve Ovett, the world 1,500 metres record holder, will have his first full race next Monday since he put it off yesterday. "I walked... no, since I was carried off the track at Los Angeles," Ovett said. "That was the Olympic 1,500 metres final, when Ovett was suffering the effects of a previous bronchial attack and heat exhaustion. He has agreed to run in an eight-kilometre road race in Vigevano, near Milan, on Easter Monday.

He won the same race, called "The Golden Shoe", in 1981, but he was playing down the significance of his decision yesterday. "I don't think I'm in shape yet, but I was getting fed up just training. I thought it was time I had a bit of an outing."

In fact, Ovett had a bit of an outing last Sunday, when he paced his Phoenix Harriers club colleague, Mark Rowland, through a 2min 58 sec 1,200 metres so that Rowland could get a qualifying time for the UK Championships 1,500 metres next month. Ovett then dropped out, and Rowland ran 3:42.6.

The organizers of the Golden Shoe, which has also been won by Sebastian Coe, approached Ovett at the end of last week when Steve Jones chose instead to run in the London Marathon. Italian television were giving live coverage for the first time to what was originally a confrontation between Jones and Alberto Cova, the Italian Olympic world and European 10,000 metres champion. But Cova dropped out with an injury before Jones renounced, so Ovett has, in fact, rescued the promotion.

"It will be nice to run in a race without too much pressure. Of course, there'll be a certain amount, but to me it's just a local race. I've told the organiz-



Ovett: to the rescue

Backing for McFarlane

By Pat Butcher

Mike McFarlane, the Commonwealth 200 metres champion, and his coach, John Isaacs, are to be sponsored by Arrow Shoes in a package deal worth more than £40,000 over the next three years. Sprinters (except for Carl Lewis) cannot command anything like the money that middle distance and marathon runners can now make out of the sport so the advantage to McFarlane, who is unemployed, is evident. The inclusion of Isaacs, however, offers wider help to British athletes.

The package will take McFarlane, who is also the European indoor 60 metres champion, through to the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. There he will be attempting to improve on the fifth place which he achieved in the 100 metres in Los Angeles last summer.

Two more of Isaacs's charges, Donovan Reid and Heather Oakes, reached 100 metres finals in Los Angeles and the 36-year-old coach has been the moving force behind the success of Haringey AC in recent years. He can count up to 20 British internationals in all age groups that he is currently coaching.

MOTOR RACING

McLaren are still a pole apart

By John Blunsden

The grand prix season that begins this weekend at Rio de Janeiro, will see one new venue, with the possibility of another, two new teams, with a third to follow in the autumn, and two teams who will be notable absentees from the Brazilian event.

An Australian Grand Prix at Adelaide has been added to the 16-race calendar, as has a second United States race in New York (the first is in Detroit). The Monaco Grand Prix has been reinstated, but races in Dallas and Rome have been abandoned; and if the New York event fails to materialize, Brands Hatch is ready to stage a second race in this country, supplementing the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 21.

The Toleman team, still starved of tyres, are not going to Brazil; nor, it seems, are any of the other races. Neither will the new ZakSpeed team be taking part in the season's first race, which means that Jonathan Palmer will not be eligible for world championship points this year under FISA rules, which stipulate that all races must be contested by championship contenders.

The season's last four races, beginning with the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, should see Alan Jones back again with the new

IN BRIEF

Sundstrom struggles to overcome Spaniard

Monte Carlo (Reuters) - Sweden's Henrik Sundstrom made a hesitant start to his defence of the Monte Carlo Open tennis against the little known Spaniard Eduardo Osta, yesterday. Sundstrom won the second round match 6-4, 6-4, to reach the last 16 but was in trouble in the second set when he trailed 4-1.

Osta, a bearded left-hander, turned in a last-minute display, belying his humble status in the world rankings, which left him 255th at the end of 1984, 248 places behind Sundstrom.

BOXING: Sor Chitalada of Thailand will defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title against the former champion Gabriel Bernal, of Mexico, in Bangkok on May 17. It will be Chitalada's second defence. He stopped Charlie Magri, of Britain, in four rounds in London in February.

BASKETBALL: The University of Villanova hit 22 of their 28 shots from the field for a record 79 per cent to overcome Georgetown University, the hottest and favourites, 66-64 in the final of the NCAA championship in Lexington, Kentucky, on Monday night.

DWAYNE McCLAIN sank four free throws in the last minute to finish as Villanova's leading scorer with 17 points and Ed Pinckney added 16 while helping to restrict Patrick Ewing, Georgetown's outstanding centre, to 14.

CRICKET: Hampshire made a profit of £30,583 last season, compared with a loss over the previous two years of more than £92,000. Tony Baker, said one of the major reasons had been a £37,000 increase in promotional activity, including

DIVING: Nigel Stanton, fifthteenth in the men's springboard at the Olympic Games, heads the British team for the European Cup in Zurich from April 11 to 14. He is flying back from college in the United States to compete. The rest of the team is Andrew Budd (Highgate), Alison Childs (Southend), Lisa Brace, Lindsey Fraser and Carolyn Roscoe (all Ladies' Diving Club).

CYCLING: Paul McHugh, the national sprint champion, aged 17, will make his first appearance at Hill in the traditional Good Friday meeting which opens the track season. The Frenchman, Philippe Boyer, and Frank Orban, of Belgium, will be his main rivals.

THE world professional track champion, Hans-Henrik Oersted, Denmark, who holds six world records, leads a multi-national Raleigh-Weinmann team in the Milk Race, which starts at Bournemouth on May 26.

SNOOKER: Steve Newbury, of Wales, led a trio of century makers in the Embassy World Championship qualifying rounds at Preston yesterday, beating John Parrott, Robert Charles, of Canada, made breaks of 101 and 110 against the Australian, Paddy Morgan, and Dave Chalmers, of England, completed the task making a 107 break against Ian Black, of Scotland.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Oldham have signed the Great Britain youth international forward, Tony Morrison, who played against France at Barrow on Sunday.



Wild water man: Eduard Wolffhardt, of Austria, competing in the Lowenbräu rapid canoe championships on the River Tryweryn, near Bala, yesterday (Photograph: Norman Lomax)

GOLF

Why Faldo will fade in Masters

From Mitchell Platt, Greensboro, N. Carolina

Nick Faldo starts the US Masters, in eight days' time, with a problem. He may be compelled to revert to a swing that the history books label as incorrect for Augusta. Faldo, however, is so disappointed with his current form that he is abandoning the experiment of drawing the ball (moving it from right to left) in favour of employing the safer fading shot (left to right).

Faldo has evaluated that when he attempts to move the ball from right to left he suffers from a common golfing complaint known as flying elbow. The problem is not very exaggerated but it is evident enough for Faldo to have reached the conclusion that it is the reason why his striking from tee to green has been inconsistent.

Certainly Faldo's results since he began the American season by finishing fourth in the Phoenix Open have been less than encouraging. And so he is determined to achieve a respectable result in the Greater Greensboro Open, starting on Thursday, to rekindle his enthusiasm and brighten his confidence after missing the halfway cut in the Tournament Players' Championship last week.

Even so, Faldo is well aware that he could be sacrificing the driving length required to negotiate Augusta successfully. "That is my biggest headache," he explained. At holes 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 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The post now advertised will include the administration of the unit, reception duties, acting as secretary to the Board, public relations and private patient accounts. Much of the work will break new ground and therefore the appointee must have considerable initiative and be prepared to work flexible hours. Some knowledge of medical terminology would be an advantage. Salary range £6,573 to £8,385 but there may be scope for additional remuneration.

Applications in own handwriting, with the names of two referees (which will not be taken up without consent) should be sent to Dr Paul Strickland, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex by 30th April 1985.

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The appointee, person, aged 28/40 years, will have a full understanding of the role of a Personal Assistant, be extremely competent in all the secretarial duties, have the personality and temperament to work with partners and senior staff and to liaise with clients.

Candidates are invited to send a full CV, giving personal details, qualifications, and previous appointments, together with an assessment of their suitability for this appointment.

All applications will be treated with absolute confidence and should be submitted by 15th April quoting Ref. 911. Interviews will be held in London from 22nd April.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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As a direct result of the recent collapse of various travel organisations travellers everywhere are advised that they must NOT rely on any agent who has advertised the financial security offered by the travel company or airline concerned. An excellent scheme whereby the airline or travel agent is insured by a third party to the tune of £100,000,000 is not the same as the airline or travel agent being insured for the full £100,000,000. This company provides each client upon booking with a Flight Insurance Scheme whereby the airline or travel agent is insured for the full sum of £100,000,000 in the unlikely event of the collapse of either. Unsurpassed or of any size, the company which has arranged this insurance is not only a guarantee to the client, but it is a positive move in the direction of providing the modern day traveller with complete financial security.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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SPORTS

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MURIN

Man holds hostages for two hours in shop siege



Siege procedure: A man with arms raised leaves a chemist's shop in Leyton and walks to the police after holding two people hostage (Photographs: Chris Harris).

Post dispute talks begin as staff ballot on strike

Continued from page 1

results in serious interference with mail delivery.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, delighted his backbenchers and infuriated the Opposition when he made clear in the Commons that the Government stood ready to allow private companies to take over letters delivery as they did in the postal strike of 1971.

Mr Tebbit was accused by Mr John Smith, the Labour spokesman on trade and industry, of making a "provocative and ill-judged threat" at a delicate stage of negotiations. Mr Tebbit, however, told another Labour MP that what he had said amounted to a veiled threat but an assurance to the consumer.

The Post Office monopoly is enshrined in the British Telecommunications Act, 1981. To suspend it Mr Tebbit would lay an Order before Parliament. He has powers to remove the

monopoly either in a specified local area or nationally; he could suspend it for a specified period or indefinitely if he wished.

Mr Tebbit, in his most combative style, said the changes in working arrangements introduced by the Post Office were for the benefit of the staff and those who used the service.

One Labour MP after another rose to attack him for threatening to attack the monopoly. Mr Harry Ewing, Labour MP for Falkirk, East, who is sponsored by the Union of Communication Workers, said that during the 1971 dispute the cost of letters delivery by private companies was 10 times greater than the Post Office.

The present dispute, if it continues, will increase the pressure from Conservative MPs, by no means all of them on the right, not on the monopoly to be lifted but for the Post Office to be privatized.

Row over cash offer to MPs

Continued from page 1

Sir Hugh said the offer raised questions of propriety "as to whether or not a select committee should accept funding from a commercially interested group".

Dr Wilson said the LDA was simply allowing the MPs to see the nuclear waste scheme. "We feel it is very important the select committee should see what is happening there and, given the fact they are unable to get there on their own funds, we thought we would make this offer."

But Mr Mark Leverton, an associate director of PRCI who made the offer to Sir Hugh, said yesterday it was made without knowing the MPs had been refused Commons cash. "We have been looking at this since December," he said.

The £5,500 would cover the cost of flying the 11 MPs and officials to Sweden.

By David Nicholson-Lord

Armed police surrounded a chemist's shop and cordoned off streets in the centre of Leyton, east London, yesterday, after a gunman took over the shop and held the pharmacist and his woman assistant hostage for two hours.

Marksmen from Scotland Yard's D11 branch and police dogs were called in after the man barged into the shop soon after it opened carrying a shotgun and fired a shot. Police

immediately put their siege procedure, seen several times in London in recent weeks, into operation.

After two hours of negotiations by telephone, the gunman freed both his hostages and walked out himself at noon yesterday, unarmed and with his hands in the air. Police ordered him to spreadeagle himself on the road while he was searched by an officer wearing a bulletproof vest.

The man, who was led away in handcuffs, was not named by

police last night. Both the pharmacist and his assistant were uninjured.

Police were last night treating the siege as a domestic dispute which had got out of control.

Only one shot was fired by the gunman, who was said by Leyton police to be "calm and rational" throughout negotiations. He finally released the pharmacist at 11.30am and the girl followed a few minutes later.



After the siege, the man is searched by police and his former fiancée led to safety.

Letter from the Lake District

Keeping watch as the eagles soar

The clear blue sky appeared empty then the eagle soared up over the ridge line where the last snows were being prized from the rocks by the morning sun. Wings stretched to their full seven ft, she hung and drifted lazily on air currents before dropping down to the eyrie where her mate was guarding the eggs.

"Sometimes I think she does that just for the sheer pleasure of it. It never fails to impress me," said David Walker, senior warden at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), who leads the elaborate operation to protect and babysit for the expectant parent eagles.

We are in a valley of tumbling clear streams, full blooded after continuous rain, on the Lake District's eastern edge. Seven hundred feet below, and some three miles along winding tracks, the lake sparkles as a fresh wind ripples the surface into flurries of whitecaps.

The exact location is closely guarded. The eagles we are watching from our hide, a seven ft by five ft garden shed, are the only nesting pair in England. They are protected by law but unscrupulous collectors will pay hundreds of pounds for their eggs.

It is as a deterrent against thieves and to limit the well intentioned but potentially disastrous attentions of enthusiasts, which could frighten the eagles away from the valley for good, that the society is once again mounting its eagle watch.

For around £230 a month, Mr Walker, aged 29 and a former postman, Mr Ken Proud, a redundant steelworker from Middlesbrough, aged 38, and Mr George Patrick, a former auditor from Glasgow, aged 56, sacrificed their home lives to move into an extremely basic cottage for an extra month to safeguard the eagles.

However, as they readily admit, they did not come for the money. You gain the impression that they would do it for nothing, just to be in day-to-day contact with the birds.

They are backed up by volunteers responding to advertisements in RSPB

magazines. When I visited the hide, Mr Proud, in his third year on the project, was accompanied by 19-year-old Lance Corporal Paul Horup, spending a week's leave making his first trip to the valley.

The hut provides cramped sleeping space for one man, sandwiched among the provisions, plastic cups and plates, a primus stove and a battery of telescopes and tripods. The other man sleeps in a tent pitched nearby. The watch takes place whatever the weather and sometimes it became so bad the hide was torn from its base and sent tumbling in pieces down the valley.

The wardens operate a rota which involves two men at a time spending between 24 and 48 hours in the hide before trudging back down the valley to log every movement of the birds in a record book at the cottage five miles away.

The RSPB has mounted the operation for 16 years since the eagles began nesting again after a break of almost 200 years. The pair are the subject of the most elaborate eagle watch ever made eagles. This year's operation will cost more than £6,000.

For the past seven years, Mr Walker has been senior warden. A policeman's son from North Shields, he gave up his job as a postman so that he could be free each February to take up the six months contract with the society that lasts until the fledgling birds leave the eyrie in July. Such is his fascination with the eagles that two years ago he moved with his wife Wendy to a small cottage in the valley so that he could continue his observations all year round.

"After seven years they still fascinate me. You can go up every day and see something different each time. Everybody has their own myths about eagles; they snatch babies, sheep and even pet terriers but much of their strength is exaggerated. However, when people do come up to the hide and see them in full flight they never fail to go away impressed."

Peter Davenport

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, attends a conference at Seale Hayne College on future land use in the south-west, 9.40; and later, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, opens the Wallingford Galleries and afterwards attends a dinner given by the trustees of the British Museum, 7.15.

The Princess of Wales opens the Category II Housing Development, Miners Row, Redruth, Cornwall, 1.30.

Princess Anne opens the new County Primary School in Ledbury, Worcester, 3.

Princess Michael of Kent opens

the 50th Happy Eater Restaurant at Ripley, Surrey, in aid of the Variety Club of Great Britain, 12.

Exhibitions in progress

Recent paintings by Donald McIntyre, Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk, Mon to Fri to 5.30, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends April 30).

Contemporary watercolours, The Upstairs Gallery, Design and Craft, The Square, Winchester, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends April 27).

Paintings/wall works by Kate Whiteford, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright St, Birmingham, Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends April 20).

The Square, Winchester, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends April 27). Woven tapestries by Grace

Erickson, Monmouth Museum, Priory St, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 28).

Ceramics by Carolyn Wrighton: The Craft Gallery, 54 London Rd, Leicester, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends May 3).

Landscapes by Judith Frost, Dorset County Museum, High St, Dorchester, Mon to Fri to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 (ends April 27).

Hartnell: Clothes by the Royal Coatmaker 1938-1968: Museum of Costume, Benetton, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30, Sun 10 to 6 (ends Feb 86).

William Green: Crags, fells and forces - lakeland painter: Wordsworth Museum, Grasmere, Ambleside, Cumbria, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 11 to 4.30 (ends May 27).

Photographs by members of the Lincolnshire Photographic Association: Usher Gallery, Lincoln Rd, Lincoln, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends April 7).

Last chance to see

Works by Lady Lucinda Mackay and Jonathan Gibbs: Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh, 9 to 5.30.

National costumes of the South East Balkans, collected by Diane Wille, Brighton Polytechnic, Grand Parade, 9 to 5.

Music

Concert by the Clacton Choral Society: Parish Church, Walton-on-the-Naze, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra: Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Recital by Michael Lee (flute) and Timothy Carey (piano): the Quay, Sudbury, Suffolk, 8.

Talk: Japanese arts and crafts, by Marie Combe-Helm: Cleveland Crafts Centre, Gilkes St, Middlesbrough, 7.30.

Anniversaries

Births: George Herbert, poet, Montgomery Castle, Wales, 1593; Washington Irving, writer, New York, 1783; James Herriot, Prime Minister of South Africa 1924-39, Wellington, Cape Colony, 1866.

Deaths: John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Bartholomaeus Bressano, 1682; Johannes Brahms, Vienna, 1897; Richard D'Oyly Carte, impresario, London, 1901; Kurt Weill, composer, New York, 1950.

Portfolio

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio. Add these together to obtain your weekly Portfolio total.

Our total estimates the published weekly dividend figures you have won, except if a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call the Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason, within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor variations to the instructions, in the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The above is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Cavour, by Denis Mack Smith (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95).

David Stoddard's Border Country, by David Stoddard (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95).

In the Rainforest, by Catherine Cauley (Hainemann, £10.95).

Jerusalem, Rebirth of a City, by Martin Gilbert (Chatto & Windus, £14.95).

Mariners, Ransackers and Castaways, The Story of Herman Melville And the World Outside of His, by John Sutherland (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95).

No Pope of Rome, Militant Protestantism in Modern Scotland, by Steve Bruce (Mainstream, £12.95).

Peterley Harvest, by David Peterley, edited by Michael Holroyd (Secker & Warburg, £2.95).

The Life and Works of Thomas Hardy, by Thomas Hardy, edited by Michael Milgate (Macmillan, £20).

The Living Planet, enlarged edition, by David Attenborough (Reader's Digest, £14.95).

The Oxford Book of Prayer, edited by George Appleton (Oxford, £10).

PH

Information supplied by the AA

The pound

Australia £ 1.47 1.78
Austria S 27.10 28.10
Belgium F 36.10 37.10
Canada C 1.25 1.45
Denmark K 16.14 16.44
France F 6.22 7.22
Germany DM 2.25 2.45
Greece Dr 33.10 34.10
Hong Kong HK\$ 1.00 1.10
India Rupee 1.00 1.10
Italy L 1.25 1.35
Japan Yen 100 110
Netherlands Gld 1.45 1.55
New Zealand \$ 1.00 1.10
Norway Kr 1.00 1.10
Portugal Esc 200 210
Spain Ptas 166 176
South Africa R 1.00 1.10
Sweden Kr 1.00 1.10
Switzerland Fr 1.00 1.10
Taiwan NT\$ 1.00 1.10
Thailand Baht 1.00 1.10
Yugoslavia D 1.00 1.10

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as regulated by Barclays Bank PLC. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 382.7
London: The FT Index closed up 8.6 at 885.4.

Best wines

In a blind tasting of 28 Barbaresco the following were chosen as excellent value for money:

1979: Lancia (So. Coop. R.L. Produttori del Barbaresco) Unwins (0322 72711), £3.95.

1980: Asili (Caretto), Victoria Wine (0482 5066), £5.45.

1979: Lancia (So. Coop. R.L. Produttori del Barbaresco) Belloni (01-2671121), £3.82.

1974: Castello di Neve, Vigneto Santo Stefano, Malmesbury Wine Club (01-368 50 86), £5.45.

1979: Paolo Colla, Serra dei Turchi, Barret's Liquormart, (01-749 7777), £2.30.

Source: What Wine? April 1985.

Snow reports

Depth (cm) Conditions Off: Runs to report: Weather (5 pm) °C

Andersmann 30 210 fair good fair fine 10

Arros 100 100 fair varied good fine 8

Good skiing 150 200 good soft soft sun 1

Isola 2000 150 200 good soft soft sun 1

La Plagne 115 230 good varied fair fine 14

Slush on lower slopes 115 230 good varied fair fine 14

Leyren 35 90 fair varied poor cloud 10

Most pistes slush 25 90 good varied fair fair 10

St Anton 25 90 good varied fair fair 10

Excellent skiing 115 180 fair varied fair fine 8

Tignes 115 180 fair varied fair fine 8

Worn patches on lower slopes 160 250 fair varied fair fine 5

Val Thorens 160 250 fair varied fair fine 5

Heavy slush in afternoons 160 250 fair varied fair fine 5

Zermatt 30 130 good varied poor sun 5

Slush on lower slopes 30 130 good varied poor sun 5

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain representatives, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Other snow reports on page 29.

Weather forecast

A deep depression to the W of Britain will move slowly N; a frontal trough of low pressure will cross most N and W areas tomorrow.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Angles, Channel Islands: mainly dry at times; sunny intervals; wind S moderate; max temp 15C (59F).

E Midlands, E, NE England: Bright or sunny intervals, perhaps a little light rain at times; wind S moderate or fresh; max temp 15C (59F).

W Midlands, SE, NW, central N England, Wales: A little rain or drizzle at times, also some bright or sunny intervals; wind S fresh or strong; max temp 13C (55F).

Outlook: for tomorrow and Friday: Rain or showers at times in most places but also some drier periods; temperatures mostly above normal, but warm in the south.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW strong, locally gale, occasional rain; visibility moderate with fog banks; sea rough or very rough.

S. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S or SW strong to gale, occasional rain; sea rough; visibility poor with fog banks becoming moderate or good; sea rough or very rough.

Sun times: 6.32 am Sun sets: 7.37 pm
Moon sets: 6.13 am Moon rises: 4.52 pm
Full Moon: April 5

Lighting-up time

London: 6.07 pm to 6.00 am
Edinburgh: 6.07 pm to 6.00 am
Manchester: 6.07 pm to 6.00 am
Preston: 6.07 pm to 6.00 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud: 1, rain: 2, sun: 3, fog: 4, drizzle: 5, hail: 6, snow: 7, ice: 8, wind: 9, rain: 10, sun: 11, fog: 12, drizzle: 13, hail: 14, snow: 15, ice: 16, wind: 17, rain: 18, sun: 19, fog: 20, drizzle: 21, hail: 22, snow: 23, ice: 24, wind: 25, rain: 26, sun: 27, fog: 28, drizzle: 29, hail: 30, snow: 31, ice: 32, wind: 33, rain: 34, sun: 35, fog: 36, drizzle: 37, hail: 38, snow: 39, ice: 40, wind: 41, rain: 42, sun: 43, fog: 44, drizzle: 45, hail: 46, snow: 47, ice: 48, wind: 49, rain: 50, sun: 51, fog: 52, drizzle: 53, hail: 54, snow: 55, ice: 56, wind: 57, rain: 58, sun: 59, fog: 60, drizzle: 61, hail: 62, snow: 63, ice: 64, wind: 65, rain: 66, sun: 67, fog: 68, drizzle: 69, hail: 70, snow: 71, ice: 72, wind: 73, rain: 74, sun: 75, fog: 76, drizzle: 77, hail: 78, snow: 79, ice: 80, wind: 81, rain: 82, sun: 83, fog: 84, drizzle: 85, hail: 86, snow: 87, ice: 88, wind: 89, rain: 90, sun: 91, fog: 92, drizzle: 93, hail: 94, snow: 95, ice: 96, wind: 97, rain: 98, sun: 99, fog: 100, drizzle: 101, hail: 102, snow: 103, ice: 104, wind: 105, rain: 106, sun: 107, fog: 108, drizzle: 109, hail: 110, snow: 111, ice: 112, wind: 113, rain: 114, sun: 115, fog: 116, drizzle: 117, hail: 118, snow: 119, ice: 120, wind: 121, rain: 122, sun: 123, fog: 124, drizzle: 125, hail: 126, snow: 127, ice: 128, wind: 129, rain: 130, sun: 131, fog: 132, drizzle: 133, hail: 134, snow: 135, ice: 136, wind: 137, rain: 138, sun: 139, fog: 140, drizzle: 141, hail: 142, snow: 143, ice: 144, wind: 145, rain: 146, sun: 147, fog: 148, drizzle: 149, hail: 150, snow: 151, ice: 152, wind: 153, rain: 154, sun: 155, fog: 156, drizzle: 157, hail: 158, snow: 159, ice: 160, wind: 161, rain: 162, sun: 163, fog: 164, drizzle: 165, hail: 166, snow: 167, ice: 168, wind: 169, rain: 170, sun: 171, fog: 172, drizzle: 173, hail: 174, snow: 175, ice: 176, wind: 177, rain: 178, sun: 179, fog: 180, drizzle: 181, hail: 182, snow: 183, ice: 184, wind: 185, rain: 186, sun: 187, fog: 188, drizzle: 189, hail: 190, snow: 191, ice: 192, wind: 193, rain: 194, sun: 195, fog: 196, drizzle: 197, hail: 198, snow: 199, ice: 200, wind: 201, rain: 202, sun: 203, fog: 204, drizzle: 205, hail: 206, snow: 207, ice: 208, wind: 209, rain: 210, sun: 211, fog: 212, drizzle: 213, hail: 214, snow: 215, ice: 216, wind: 217, rain: 218, sun: 219, fog: 220, drizzle: 221, hail: 222, snow: 223, ice: 224, wind: 225, rain: 226, sun: 227, fog: 228, drizzle: 229, hail: 230, snow: 231, ice: 232, wind: 233, rain: 234, sun: 235, fog: 236, drizzle: 237, hail: 238, snow: 239, ice: 240, wind: 241, rain: 242, sun: 243, fog: 244, drizzle: 245, hail: 246, snow: 247, ice: 248, wind: 249, rain: 250, sun: 251, fog: 252, drizzle: 253, hail: 254, snow: 255, ice: 256, wind: 257, rain: 258, sun: 259, fog: 260, drizzle: 261, hail: 262, snow: 263, ice: 264, wind: 265, rain: 266, sun: 267, fog: 268, drizzle: 269, hail: 270, snow: 271, ice: 272, wind: 273, rain: 274, sun: 275, fog: 276, drizzle: 277, hail: 278, snow: 279, ice: 280, wind: 281, rain: 282, sun: 283, fog: 284, drizzle: 285, hail: 286, snow: 287, ice: 288, wind: 289, rain: 290, sun: 291, fog: 292, drizzle: 293, hail: 294, snow: 295, ice: 296, wind: 297, rain: 298, sun: 299, fog: 300, drizzle: 301, hail: 302, snow: 303, ice: 304, wind: 305, rain: 306, sun: 307, fog: 308, drizzle: 309, hail: 310, snow: 311, ice: 312, wind: 313, rain: 314, sun: 315, fog: 316, drizzle: 317, hail: 318, snow: 319, ice: 320, wind: 321, rain: 322, sun: 323, fog: 324, drizzle: 325, hail: 326, snow: 327, ice: 328, wind: 329, rain: 330, sun: 331, fog: 332, drizzle: 333, hail: 334, snow: 335, ice: 336, wind: 337, rain: 338, sun: 339, fog: 340, drizzle: 341, hail: 342, snow: 343, ice: 344, wind: 345, rain: 346, sun: 347, fog: 348, drizzle: 349, hail